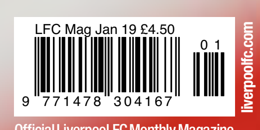
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SADIO'S SEASON OF GOOD WILL



JOE TO THE WORLD*



ANFIELD'S FIRST SANTA



JINGLE GOALS FIVE CRACKERS

* We're not quite sure what that means but hey it's Crimbo, Kopites

KLOPPY CHRISTMAS!

JÜRGEN-A LOVE THIS ISSUE

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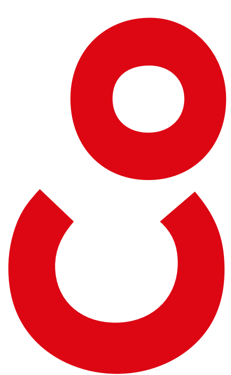
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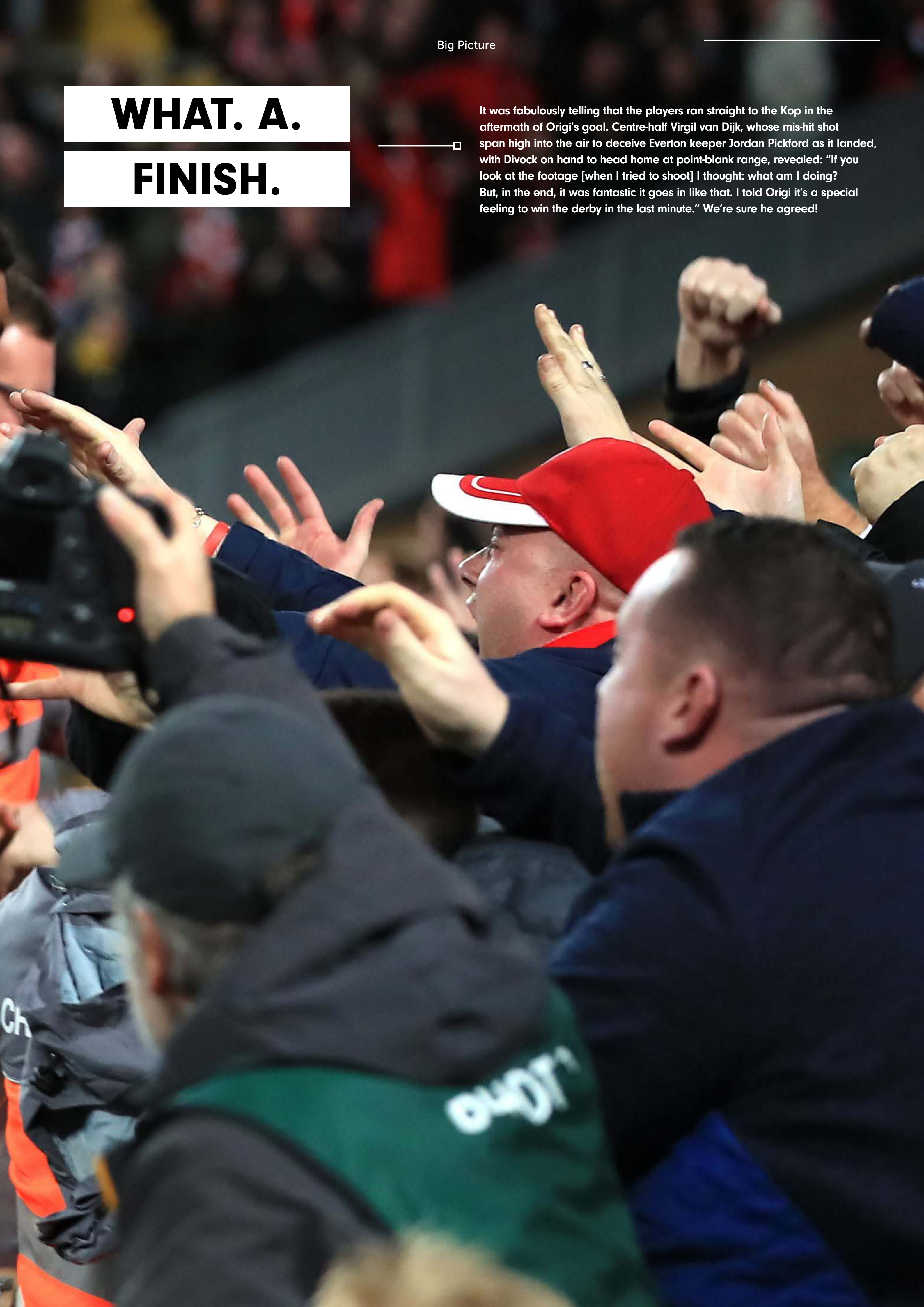




LET THERE BE LIGHT

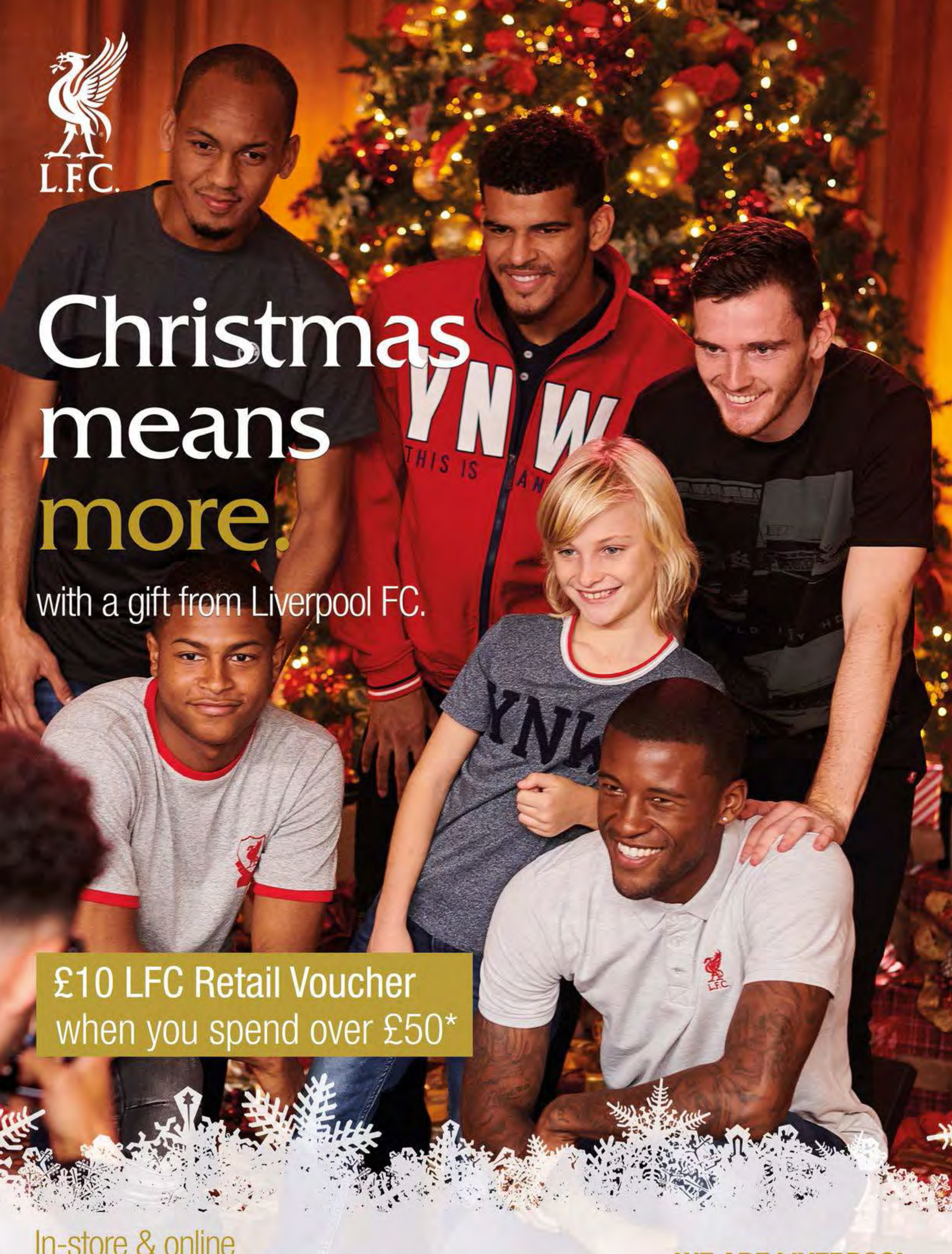
Around this time last year Divock Origi was a VfL Wolfsburg player looking forward to the Bundesliga's winter-break, quite possibly contemplating a permanent future away from Anfield and not for a second believing that the Kop might once more bellow out his name. Football, eh? "I just try to shine my light and see wherever it goes," he said after netting the 96th-minute winner in the Anfield derby. Divock, we're all still bathing in the glow.


L.F.C.



WHAT. A. FINISH.

It was fabulously telling that the players ran straight to the Kop in the aftermath of Origi's goal. Centre-half Virgil van Dijk, whose mis-hit shot span high into the air to deceive Everton keeper Jordan Pickford as it landed, with Divock on hand to head home at point-blank range, revealed: "If you look at the footage [when I tried to shoot] I thought: what am I doing? But, in the end, it was fantastic it goes in like that. I told Origi it's a special feeling to win the derby in the last minute." We're sure he agreed!


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ROCKET RONNY

Divock Origi's winning goal in the derby means Liverpool have now beaten Everton five times in the Premier League with goals in the 90th minute or later, a competition record for any fixture. It all started in the first Anfield derby of the PL era in 1992/93 when Ronny Rosenthal lashed a stoppage-time shot past Neville Southall at the Kop end. Ronny, oh Ronny Ronny...


12
L.F.C

EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON

That's the Joe Gomez mantra as he reflects in this engrossing interview upon his remarkable 2018


Seeing
is Believin
LFC



Interview: William Hughes

J

immy Greaves used to describe football as a "funny old game." It became the legendary goal-getter's catchphrase when he teamed up with Liverpool great Ian St John to host the famous lunchtime show *Saint and Greavsie* on television between 1985 and 1992.

Reds defender Joe Gomez would certainly agree with the sentiment, especially as he reflects on his own 2018. It is a year that has produced the highest of highs and the lowest of lows but for one so young – he only turned 21 in May – Gomez is sagacious in his overview, always snapping his focus to the bigger picture.

It was a year that started with Joe continuing to make the breakthrough as a first-team regular at Anfield after he had made ten first-team appearances during his first two seasons with the Reds.

He started the first four games of 2018 before being rested for the FA Cup defeat by West Brom. Usually playing at right-back and occasionally in the centre of defence alongside the newly-recruited Virgil van Dijk, he made huge strides in becoming a key part of Jürgen Klopp's team.

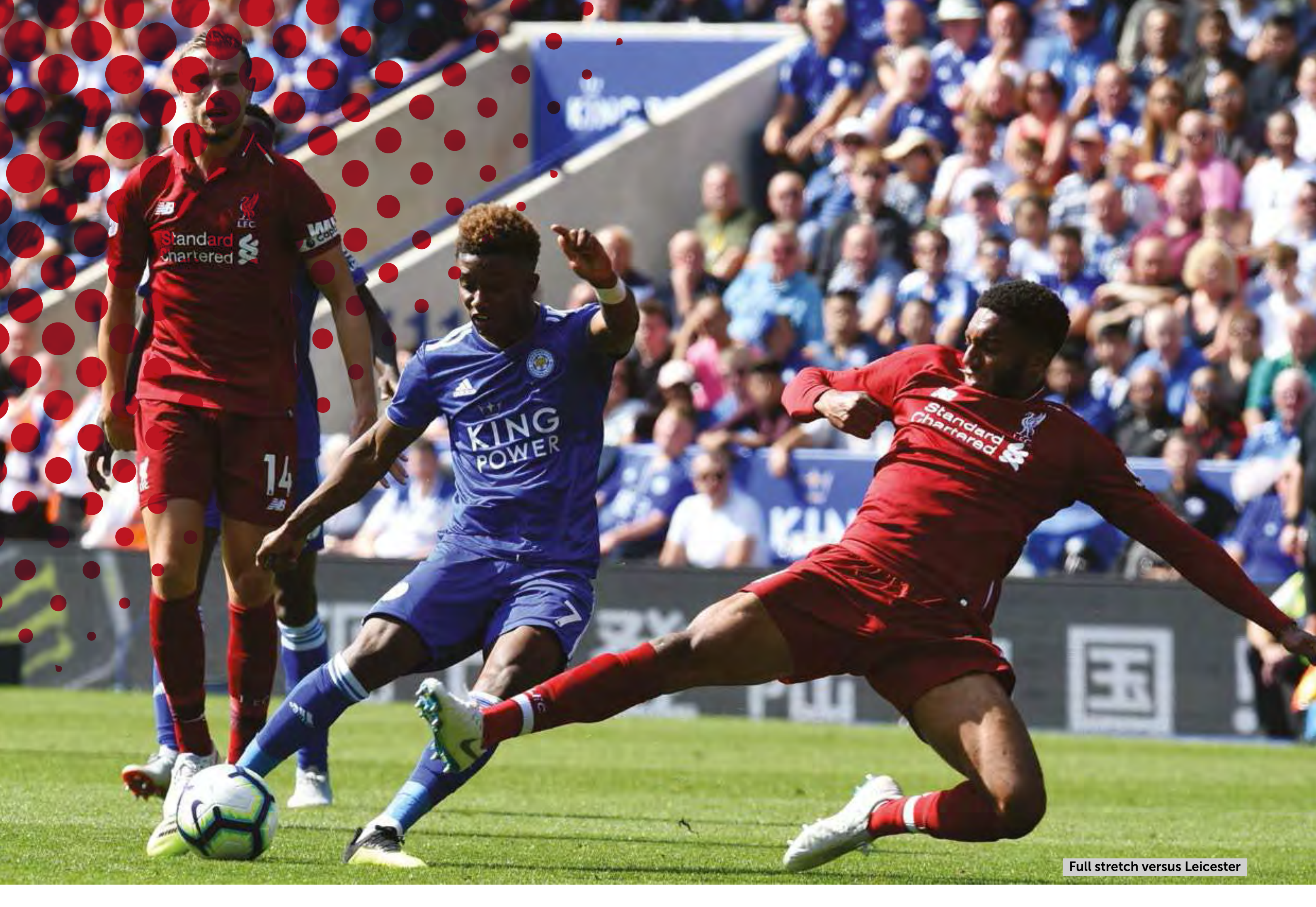
His performances also impressed England manager Gareth Southgate who was actively embarking on a policy of blooding young talent in the national team. The Liverpool defender had taken the eye in friendlies against Germany and Brazil the previous November but his third cap, away to the Netherlands in March 2018, saw things take a turn for the worse.

Gomez sustained an ankle injury early in the game and had to sit out some important matches. Having starred in Liverpool's 5-0 aggregate defeat of Porto in the Champions League round-of-16 games, he had to sit out the quarter-final clashes against Manchester City.

He returned to Premier League action for the games against West Brom and Stoke City that preceded the two legs of the semi-final matches with Roma before making the hardest of decisions. Just days after the Reds had booked their place in the Champions League final, he underwent ankle surgery which ruled him out of not only the trip to Kiev but also of the chance to represent his country at the World Cup finals in Russia.

The aim was to enable him to be fully fit to start pre-season with Liverpool, and since then he's put the difficult months of summer behind him with a series of high-class displays that have seen him regain his status as a regular for club and country. And as he ponders on 2018 at Melwood, his overall assessment of the year is a positive one.

"As any year goes by, you have ups and downs but looking at the calendar year I think it's been good," he says. "I've played a good number of games and I've learnt a lot on and off the field. Obviously I had a phase where I had an injury in the summer which was really disappointing but it's been another character-building phase for me.



Full stretch versus Leicester

"Moving on from it, this season I have tried to keep learning and make progress week-by-week. It's been a year where I have developed as a person too."

Mental strength is something that is spoken of a lot in sport and Gomez has already demonstrated an abundance of it in a fledgling career that would have hindered lesser men. Just days after Klopp's appointment as Liverpool manager in October 2015, he sustained a season-ending anterior cruciate-ligament injury while on duty with England Under-21s.

Add in the frustrations of this summer and it would have been easy for the Reds no12 to be downcast. Instead he has seen this season as a fresh start.

"Of course, missing out on the Champions League final was tough. Real tough. Everything was quite fresh at that point. But there were a few of us that missed out. Ox and Joel were injured too. It isn't easy for any player because that can be a highlight of your career and playing in a Champions League final doesn't come round very often. It would have been special to be a part of it but it wasn't meant to be.

"I'm a big believer that everything happens for a reason and I needed to move on from it. I'm also young enough to hopefully have more opportunities in the future.

"Not going to the World Cup was difficult at the time too, but I knew I couldn't dwell on it. There was no point in letting it affect me and I just knew that all I could do was support the team through the summer.

"The first day of pre-season gave me the chance to be fit and ready and that was my aim at that point: just to be fit for that first day of pre-season. I was and it's obviously given me the advantage of being able to have a full pre-season and just get fit.

"I suppose there are pros and cons in every situation and it allowed me to come back on time and be part of the team which is very important. It was a difficult few months but I had to look forward and I see it as another learning experience."

Once he reported back to Melwood, Gomez was grateful for the chance to focus on playing football again. With Dejan Lovren and Joel Matip having had their own injury troubles, the youngster has flourished in the heart of the Liverpool backline alongside Van Dijk.

THERE HAVE BEEN UPS AND DOWNS THIS YEAR BUT I'VE LEARNT A LOT ON AND OFF THE FIELD AND IT'S BEEN CHARACTER-BUILDING FOR ME

"I'm appreciative of the opportunity that the manager's given me,: he continues. "It's an honour to play for this club and I don't take for granted how big the club is and what it means to play for a club like Liverpool. It's something I'm embracing and enjoying week in and week out but I know that I've got a long way to go.

"Just because you're playing one week doesn't mean you will be the next. You can't rest on your laurels. You have to try and progress because if you don't you'll find yourself out of the team.

"That's probably even more the case this year with the squad we have now. There's a lot of strength-in-depth and you don't have time not to be trying to develop or give your all every week because the manager has so many options just as strong."

The Reds embarked on a hectic December programme having accumulated 36 points from a possible 42 in the Premier League.

Gomez believes the quality in the squad and the demands the manager makes of them in training to the highest standard is reaping rewards, but he also cautions that the Reds cannot be complacent about their opening third to the campaign. The fact that despite such a solid start they began the final month of the year in second spot is warning enough about the dangers of taking their feet off the pedal.

"It's a good vibe in amongst the group and we're all hungry to perform and do well. The training sessions are always very intense. That's something that the manager demands. He sets the tone for that and we all have to follow and that's probably an aspect that helps us at the weekends. That's the way he's set the standards. They're obviously very high and that's what's expected at a club like this.

"We're all positive about the start but we know that there's still a lot of room for improvement. When we analyse our games we always find ways that we can improve. We're not satisfied with what is just the start.

"It's a long season and we've got an intense period coming up now and we know that the start means nothing if we don't continue to maintain that and then end well. We know that we've got a foundation now but it's about continuing the momentum and making sure that we finish strongly too."

The first 14 matches of the campaign saw the Reds concede just five goals, a figure that compares well to the 18 scored by opponents from the same number of games in 2017/18.

"As a defender and as a back-four that's our job but, of course, we start from the front with our defending and you see that in the games. For the team it's all about shutting down spaces otherwise we'd be exposed at the back all game.

"The front guys take a lot of pressure of us because the attacking football that we play leaves us having to deal with less at the back. That's a real positive and we're happy with it so far but, as I say, it's still very early in the season and there is a lot of football yet to play. Hopefully it's an attribute that we can maintain but it's going to take a lot of hard work to do so."

As well as the addition of Van Dijk in January, the rearguard has also been bolstered by the recruitment of goalkeeper Alisson this summer and Gomez is quick to note the influence the Brazilian has had behind him. "He's made a massive impact and we need to give so much credit to him. I think he's come in and gelled so quickly and settled in so well.

"He's just adapted straightaway and he's been huge for us and saved us quite a few times during games. But it's not just that. His


Boss celebrations

general play and his distribution and calmness has a big effect on us at the back. The goalkeeper is able to see everything from the back and his communication is very good – his English is excellent. He gives us confidence to receive the ball and play with it so it's been massive for is and he's a top, top goalkeeper."

Gomez's tactical awareness has enabled him to slot seamlessly between both the central-defensive and right-back positions this season, depending on the manager's requirements for any given game.

"The two positions are quite different. I think it's just about trying to visualise it and in the week leading up to the game trying to mentally switch between the roles. I think it's something that you want to have, the versatility to be able to play both. We've got a good team around us and the gaffer obviously prepares us well within the week so that gives a chance for me to be ready for either role.

"There are obviously differences in terms of the runs you make and the support you give to the attackers. There are big demands in terms of getting forward and supporting but I think that can depend on your attributes. Someone like Trent is obviously very good going forward and he offers support that is massive for us.

Anfield: ready to go, Joe

"Trying to replicate that isn't always easy but you just have to try and do it to the best of your ability and meet the manager's demands. Defensively they are different positions too but it's something that you deal with.

"Positionally, I think that playing in both roles has done a lot for me, to be honest. Just knowing and having familiarity with what is wanted from a full-back and working out where you need to be, looking across the line and thinking: is your team-mate in the right place, or am I in the right place? I think it does help you to understand that by having a knowledge of both roles and having that picture."

Joe's polished performances also saw him return to the international set-up in September and he started three of England's four UEFA Nations League fixtures in their run to next summer's finals.

England topped their group with Spain and Croatia after winning their final game against Lovren and company at Wembley last month with the Reds defender playing a part as the Three Lions utilised another of the strings he has to his bow: the long throw-in.

With England trailing 1-0, the Liverpool man launched a huge throw into the box which led to Jesse Lingard scoring the equaliser before Harry Kane sealed a place in next summer's finals where Gomez will be hoping to come up against team-mates Van Dijk, Georginio Wijnaldum and Xherdan Shaqiri.

He has worked hard on developing his throw-ins with Thomas Gronnemark, the coach appointed by Klopp to help work on that aspect of the game with the Reds squad.

"To be fair, I think its something that I've always been able to do throughout my career but in recent weeks it's been highlighted more. It's well known that we have a throw-in specialist at Melwood and I've been working on it with him, but I think it's more about knowing when to use it.

"It's not something that I want to rely on or be known for. But at the same time if it can help us, if it's at the right stage of the game and it helps to put pressure on the opposition, it's obviously something that we can use and it can be effective. Hopefully it helps us at some point."

That certainly proved the case for England and Gomez was happy to play his part in a win that capped a fine year for Gareth Southgate's

I ENJOY PLAYING FOR GARETH – HE'S LIKE OUR MANAGER HERE IN THAT HE'S SOMEONE YOU WANT TO PLAY FOR



England man



side. "It was nice to get a result with England. Representing your country is always special and it was a good game for us and I really enjoyed it.

"I enjoy playing for Gareth. He's like our manager here in that he's someone you want to play for. Players don't always get that connection with managers and it's not always an easy one to have, but he makes you feel comfortable.

"There's obviously that aspect that it's your country and you want to play for them but he gives you the comfort and the confidence to play in the way that he wants you to and helps you to enjoy the experience rather than feeling the pressure.

"I think that's massive because it is a big pressure, playing for England and there can be a lot of criticism that comes with that but he gives the confidence within the team to play for each other and that's very helpful."

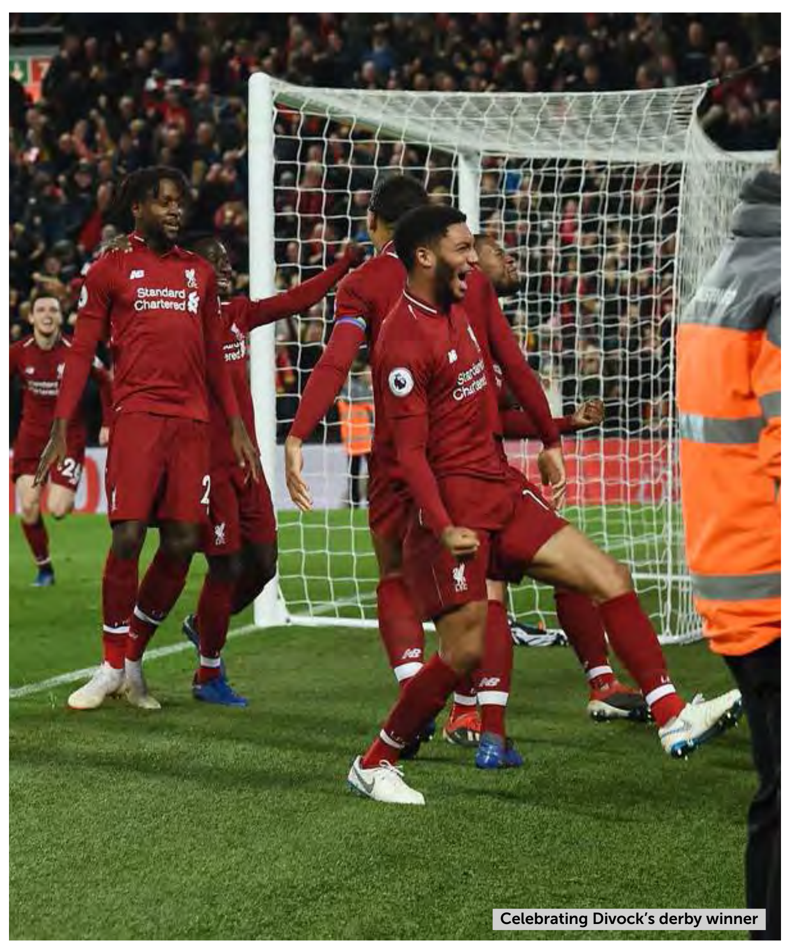
Southgate also showed that he is open to different ideas by switching from the back-three that was so successful in Russia to a more conventional back four this autumn. "I think he is someone who does what he wants to do. He's not influenced by anything outside. I think it's important to have that group and that feeling of togetherness within the camp and not to allow too much influence from outside.

"He also has the confidence and trust to play young players like myself and Trent. That is massive for us and it gives us that opportunity to try and repay the faith that he shows in us."

Gomez was naturally thrilled for Alexander-Arnold when he scored his first England goal in the win over the USA last month with a perfectly executed angled drive.

"It was special, especially coming at Wembley. It was a great strike too. Everyone knows how good a hitter of the ball Trent is and he showed it again that night so I was buzzing for him.

"It was special to watch."


Celebrating Divock's derby winner

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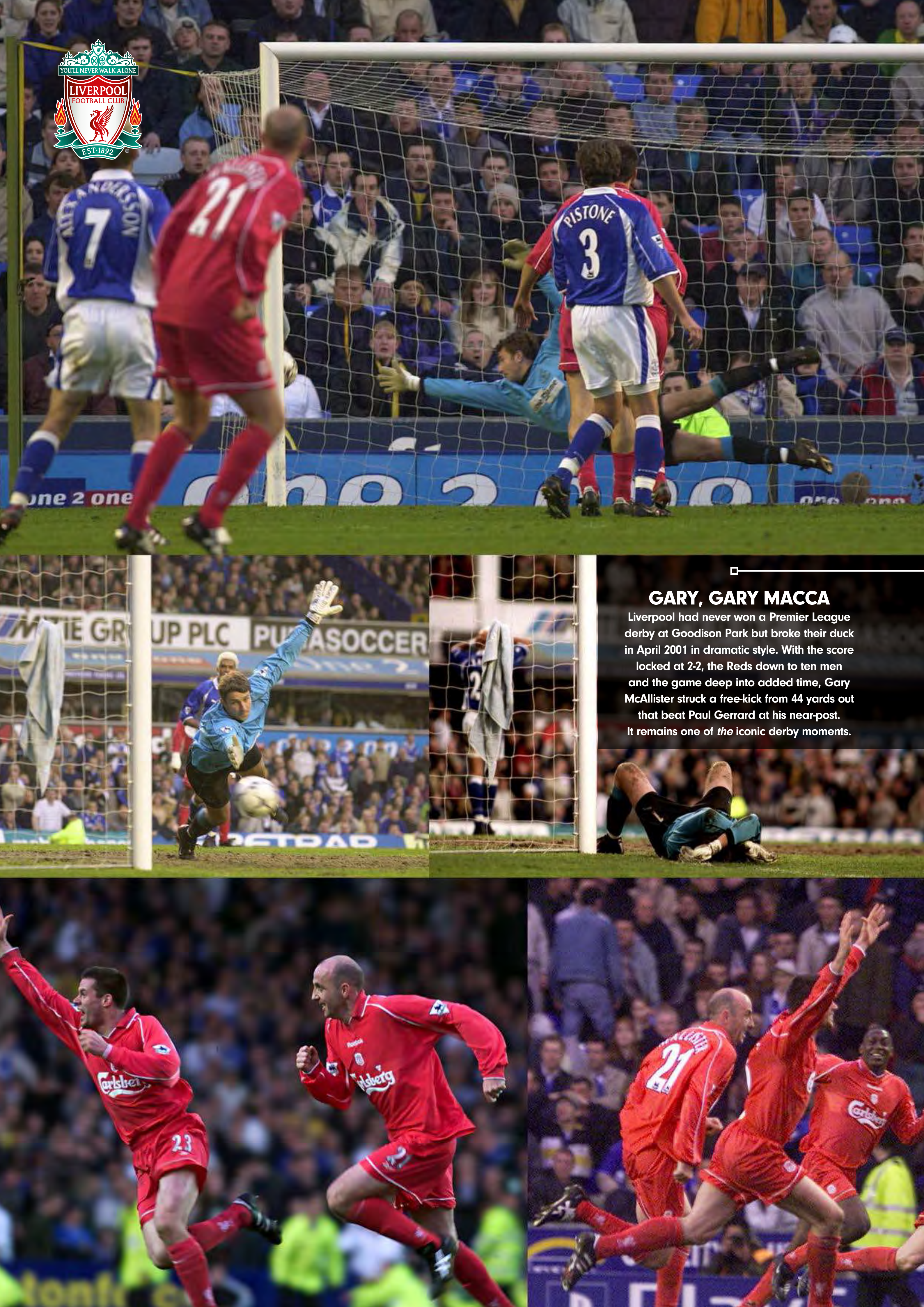






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GARY, GARY MACCA

Liverpool had never won a Premier League derby at Goodison Park but broke their duck in April 2001 in dramatic style. With the score locked at 2-2, the Reds down to ten men and the game deep into added time, Gary McAllister struck a free-kick from 44 yards out that beat Paul Gerrard at his near-post. It remains one of *the* iconic derby moments.

ALL THE BEST

In his new documentary Steven Gerrard says he admires Jürgen Klopp for the way he can switch on and off from the intensity of football management – as these photos with other top-flight bosses show



"Don't I know you from somewhere...?" Teasing ex-Reds boss Rafael Benitez before Liverpool's game at Newcastle United in October 2017 which ended honours even, 1-1. Rafa has revealed that the pair have become friends since first jousting as Napoli and Dortmund managers, then meeting at UEFA coaching congresses in Switzerland. Klopp calls him "a Liverpool legend – someone who led this football club in the best possible way, an embodiment of the club's best values."

Here's Jürgen with Javi Gracia of Watford before November's Premier League match at Vicarage Road. In his matchday programme notes for the visit of the Hornets last season the boss praised Gracia for doing "a wonderful job since coming to Premier League – he has had an excellent coaching career and proved he can adapt well to different leagues and cultures."



A couple of years back Sean Dyche poked fun at the accolades showered by the media upon overseas managers in the Premier League, but there is clearly respect between the Burnley boss and Klopp, the pair pictured here ahead of Liverpool's hard-fought 2-1 win at Turf Moor last January.

"I look at Klopp and he smiles every day. I want to smile like him, do things positively here, with smiles and enjoyment but also working." So said Unai Emery as his Arsenal side prepared to welcome the Reds to the Emirates at the start of November. In turn Jürgen said: "All people in football knew how good he is [before he came here]. I saw yesterday that he won eight titles in two or three years – that's pretty big."



Mark Hughes, pictured here as Stoke City boss in 2016, doesn't crack a smile too often, but as a former Manchester United striker he knows all about the great Liverpool teams of the past, and he tipped Jürgen's Reds for great things after his Southampton side lost at Anfield in September. Klopp says: "Any side managed by Mark is ultra-competitive because it reflects him." We wish Mark a speedy return to management.

The boss has made no secret of his admiration for Bournemouth's Eddie Howe. "What he's done there represents what is best about leadership and management in our industry and he, as much as anyone in the Premier League and the English game, should be seen as a role-model for young coaches, regardless of nationality."

When the Reds lost 4-3 at the Vitality Stadium the compliment was returned, Howe revealing: "I thought he was very good in that moment which is the most difficult for a manager when your team has just lost. He acted with real class."



When Liverpool beat Brighton 5-1 at the AMEX Stadium last December, much was made in the media of Jürgen Klopp 'refusing' to shake hands with Chris Hughton at the final whistle when in fact the Reds boss had been distracted by his own players. Chris later said: "Credit to Jurgen, he came looking for me afterwards [and] I do believe what he said, that it wasn't something he'd done intentionally. In any case you don't want to take the emotions out of the game."



Sure, there's the fierce regional rivalry, and of course there's a bit of previous between the Reds and Jose Mourinho. But the Manchester United manager, whose trophy-winning record at home and abroad speaks for itself, can still share a smile with his LFC counterpart. Jürgen calls Jose "world-class, a winner and someone who relishes big moments and big occasions."



"Pep raises the bar," said Klopp, simply, before last season's Champions League quarter-final first leg. "Maybe he's the best manager in the world," said Guardiola the year before, "the best at creating teams who attack the back-four with and without the ball." Two different characters with one shared all-consuming passion.

"He looks like a character, a very emotional and lively person." That's Jürgen on Neil Warnock ahead of the Liverpool-Cardiff City game at Anfield in October, although it could just as easily have been Warnock on Klopp. The Reds boss added: "I am really looking forward to meeting him – I heard a lot about him!" The Bluebirds boss was gracious in defeat afterwards: "Liverpool are the most improved team with the signings he [Klopp] has made. They are back in the real big time now."

You can't help but like Maurizio Sarri, a 'proper' football man. After Liverpool's late equaliser at Stamford Bridge in September the Chelsea boss revealed to Italian newspaper *Corriere dello Sport*: "There are moments when the grand spectacle of it all convinces you to put aside any regrets, even if you concede at the last minute. Ten minutes earlier I saw Klopp looking at me with the game going on. I asked, 'Why are you smiling?' and he replied, 'Aren't you having fun?' I said, 'So much' and he added, 'Me too." He was losing at the time. Even after the equaliser, remembering that moment, we hugged like two old friends."





Claudio Ranieri is now at Fulham, who appointed him as manager after their defeat to Liverpool in November, but this shot shows him as Leicester City boss before a Boxing Day 2015 fixture at Anfield – the season that the Foxes would go on to win the title. Football management at the top level is no picnic, clearly, and emotions can run high, but with the right spirit it can also, at times, be a lot of fun.



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Words: Chris McLoughlin



FAB CHRISTMAS

The Brazilian midfielder on Liverpool's hectic festive schedule and how he'll be celebrating at home



You've been a Liverpool player for five months, how do you assess your time here so far?

It has been okay here. I know the facilities, the players and I am developing my relationship with the manager. It has been easier for me with Roberto [Firmino] already here and he has been helping me. With regards to playing on the pitch I feel I am adjusting very well, but there is still progress that needs to be made.

Has anything surprised you about the Premier League or is how you expected it to be?

I've not been surprised by the Premier League, it's been as I expected. It is different from when I was at Monaco as there is less time to react and the intensity is higher. I have been told it is more difficult to play against the teams both at the bottom and the top in the Premier League, but it has been everything I've expected so far.

On the pitch we're at the start of a very busy period of games – will it feel strange to you to be playing football at Christmas instead of having a winter-break?

It is going to be different for me as I am not used to this. We have to play eight games in December – one every three or four days! So my family is going to come over for Christmas to help me during this crazy period, but it also means every player will have their time to play on the pitch.

What is Christmas like back home in Brazil?

Christmas is a very important festival in Brazil because Brazil is a very religious country. We celebrate this festival and it is a time to spend with family so, as I just said, it is very good that my family can come here to join me. I will not have as much time to celebrate Christmas as normal, but we do not have games on the 24th or the 25th. This is good as it means we can still celebrate it normally and we are going to have Christmas dinner as we would in Brazil.

Santa Claus is known as Papai Noel (Father Noel) in Brazil – can you think of any favourite Christmas presents you received from him as a child?

Yes, Papai Noel! As a child I loved football and I can remember getting football gifts. They were the gifts I remember getting the most.

As this will be your first Christmas in Liverpool does it mean you will have to get a special gift for your wife Rebecca?
Oooh! [Laughs] December is a month to celebrate for us. It is my wife's birthday in December, there is Christmas and New Year as well, and it is also our wedding anniversary! So I think I am going to try to give her two presents for all these celebrations!

On the pitch how physically and mentally demanding do you expect this period of the season to be?
We know that we have to face a difficult task – an intense time – so what is important is that we are physically prepared because everybody is going to have their chance to play. Everybody must be ready for all these games. We have good professionals here to help us recover between games and we have drinks that help us with this too. This is important as we must ensure we recover quickly between games if we are to get through this period the way we want to.

Liverpool play Manchester United, Arsenal and Manchester City among others during the Christmas period – does this make it a particularly important part of the season?
It is going to be hard, we know this, not just because of those games you mentioned but also because we will have played Napoli in the Champions League in December as well. We want get to the next stage in that competition but we also want to make sure none of the other teams go above us in the Premier League table. We want to ensure we carry on at the top of the table so it is going to be a very hard and very intense month to achieve this.

A lot of people say it will be between Man City and Liverpool for the Premier League title – do you agree and is it a race that could keep going all the way until May?
Both teams have been playing very well in the season so far and we expect this to continue. But it is not only Liverpool and Manchester City – there is Tottenham, Chelsea and Arsenal as well who have made good starts, so all we can do is try to carry on winning and see what happens.

Finally, if you could have one wish for 2019 what would it be?
One? [Puffs out cheeks]

Alright, three wishes for 2019?
Okay! I want to win the Champions League, the Premier League and also the Copa America! Easy, yes? [Bursts into laughter]











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KUYT FEVER

Dirk Kuyt had already equalised from the penalty-spot at Goodison Park in 2007 and when Lucas was denied a 90th-minute winner by a flying save from Phil Neville – who wasn't in goal and was sent off for handball – faith was placed in the reliable Dutchman to step up again. He didn't miss and the travelling Kop had a 2-1 win to celebrate long into the night.

GOAL OF THE (HALF) SEASON!

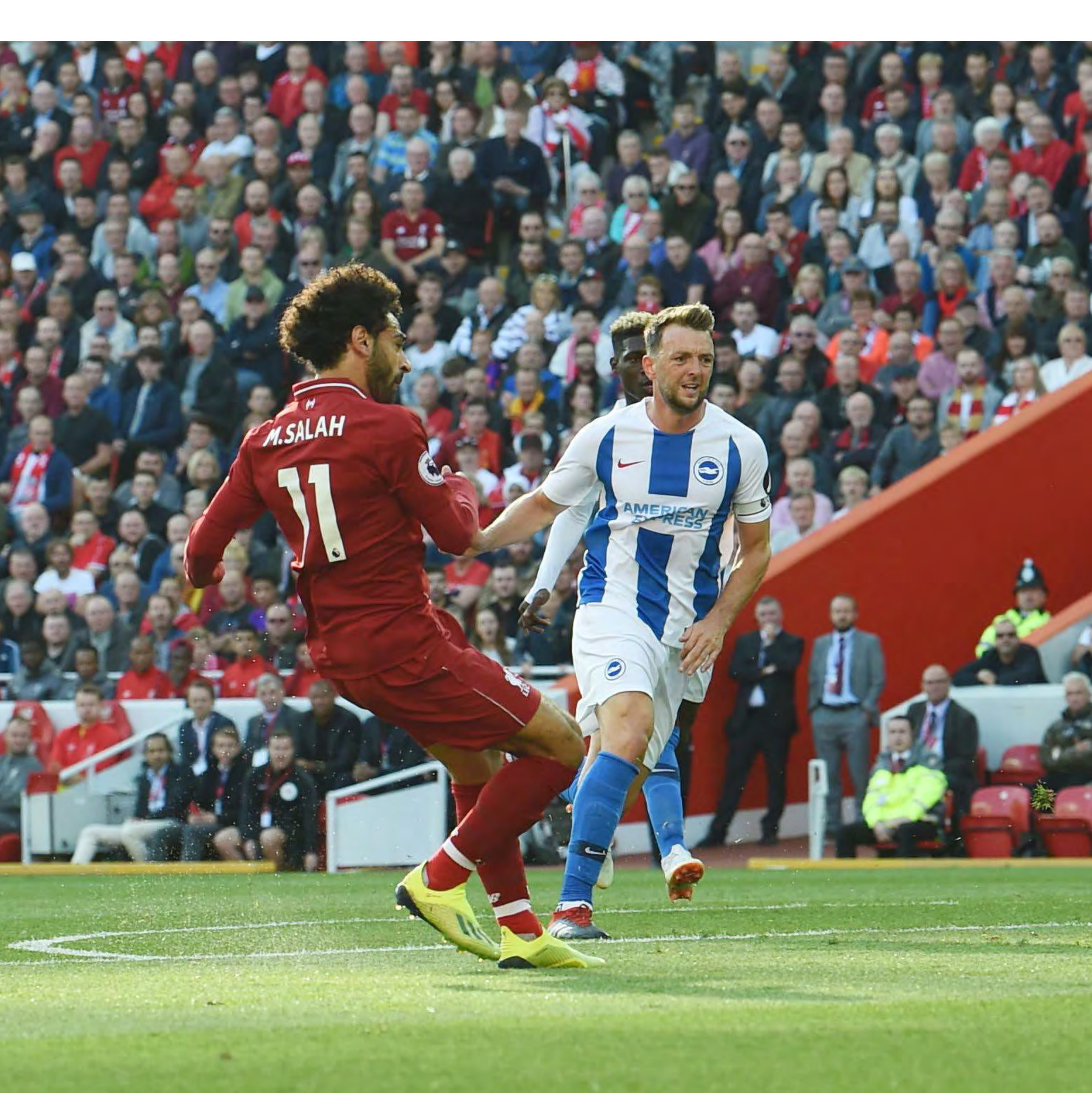
Between August and December there have been plenty of contenders but these four take some beating – can you decide which is the best?

"BRILLIANT"

SALAH V BRIGHTON (H) SATURDAY 25 AUGUST

'Ugly win' maybe but what a beguiling goal. Mo's 29th in 29 Anfield appearances, which put the Reds top of the Premier League, was created and executed in the blink-of-an-eye.

In the opening 20 minutes Brighton had numbers back and coped fairly comfortably with Liverpool's possession-football. But then, suddenly, deep in enemy territory James Milner brilliantly dispossessed Yves Bissouma for Sadio Mane to pass first-time to Roberto Firmino. The Brazilian took a couple of touches then played in Salah on his right, who didn't break stride as he stroked home inside the far-post. It kept Liverpool unbeaten in the Premier League at Anfield for 16 months and signalled their best start to a season since 2013/14. LFCTV commentator John Bradley: "Brilliant from Liverpool, it's all about Liverpool: press high, seize on the mistake, capitalise on the chance, one-nil."




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"DEVASTATING"

MANE V CRYSTAL PALACE (A) MONDAY 20 AUGUST

It was all about speed, strength and composure when Sadio's breakaway goal made it 2-0 to Liverpool in stoppage-time at Palace in this Monday-night fixture.

Eight days earlier Mane had become the first Liverpool player since John Barnes to score in three consecutive season-openers, finding the net against West Ham United at Anfield. This was his sixth goal against the Eagles in what was a fourth consecutive Premier League win for Liverpool at Selhurst Park.

The *Telegraph* called it "the kind of ultra-professional, hard-fought win that may well mean so much at the end of this campaign... From a Palace corner, Salah was set on a run and released Mane, who held off Patrick van Aanholt, rounded Hennessey and slid the ball home from a tight angle.

"It was a devastating finish and, even if it did not cap another devastating performance from Liverpool, it was deeply impressive all the same. On this evidence, they will be a powerful, robust force to push champions Manchester City. These points could be so vital to that."



"OUTRAGEOUS"

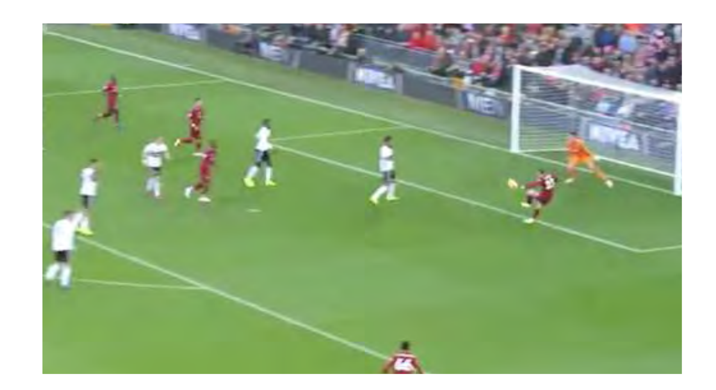
STURRIDGE V CHELSEA (A) SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

One touch, one look-up, one sensational shot from 25 yards that beat the goalkeeper and secured a point for Liverpool at Chelsea in the Premier League.

Daniel's stupendous 89th-minute equaliser, three minutes after he'd come on as a substitute, gave the Reds a well-deserved draw when it looked like Eden Hazard's fine first-half strike would settle the game. It was Sturridge's 50th Premier League goal for Liverpool and his 13th as a substitute, putting him second only to the legendary David Fairclough (18) on that all-time list.

BBC *Match of the Day* commentator Steve Wilson described Sturridge's strike thus: "The gap between fingertip [of keeper Kepa Arrizabalaga] and crossbar is about as big as the ball, and the ball went right through it." Pundit Martin Keown added: "This fella makes a habit of this, 17 goals off the bench. The arrogance, the audacity, to try that – it's absolutely outrageous."


MOSES
15
Standard Chartered
LFC
15
4
23
66



"NICE"

SHAQIRI V FULHAM (H) SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER

Sure, it wasn't as spectacular as that scissors-kick versus Manchester United in pre-season, or perhaps as meaningful as his first goal for Liverpool – that neat finish against Cardiff City from Mo's quicksilver assist. But for sheer, controlled technique this was a touch of Xherdan Shaqiri class – worthy of all eleven camera-angles later tweeted by LFCTV (seven of which are shown here).

Fifty-three minutes had passed and though the Reds were one-up there was always the worry that one chance for the visitors, struggling at the foot of the table but playing with spirit along with a plethora of centre-halves, would bring them level.

A corner for Liverpool on the right was over-hit by Trent Alexander-Arnold but kept in play and recycled by Virgil van Dijk to Fabinho then back to Andy Robertson. The Scottish left-back hit a high, booming cross into the box vacated by outrushing defenders, leaving Shaqiri to spring the offside trap and cushion-volley past hapless goalie Sergio Rico – you could hear the clean thud of boot on ball, then the sweet ripple of ball in back-of-net.

It meant the Swiss ace had scored or assisted in five of his last six Reds appearances in all competitions (two goals, three assists) – no wonder he received a standing ovation when he left the field on 80 minutes.

"We have amazing fans and I scored again in front of the Kop so it was a nice feeling," he said. "It was a good cross obviously from Robbo and a nice finish. I'm very pleased that I scored.

"It's always better if you've got better players around you. You can be more offensive if you know you're going to have more possession than the opponent. I played in Bayern Munich with Franck Ribery and Arjen Robben so it's nothing new for me. I knew already how good these very talented players are.

"We have a very good team, a young team, and I'm just proud to be part of it."



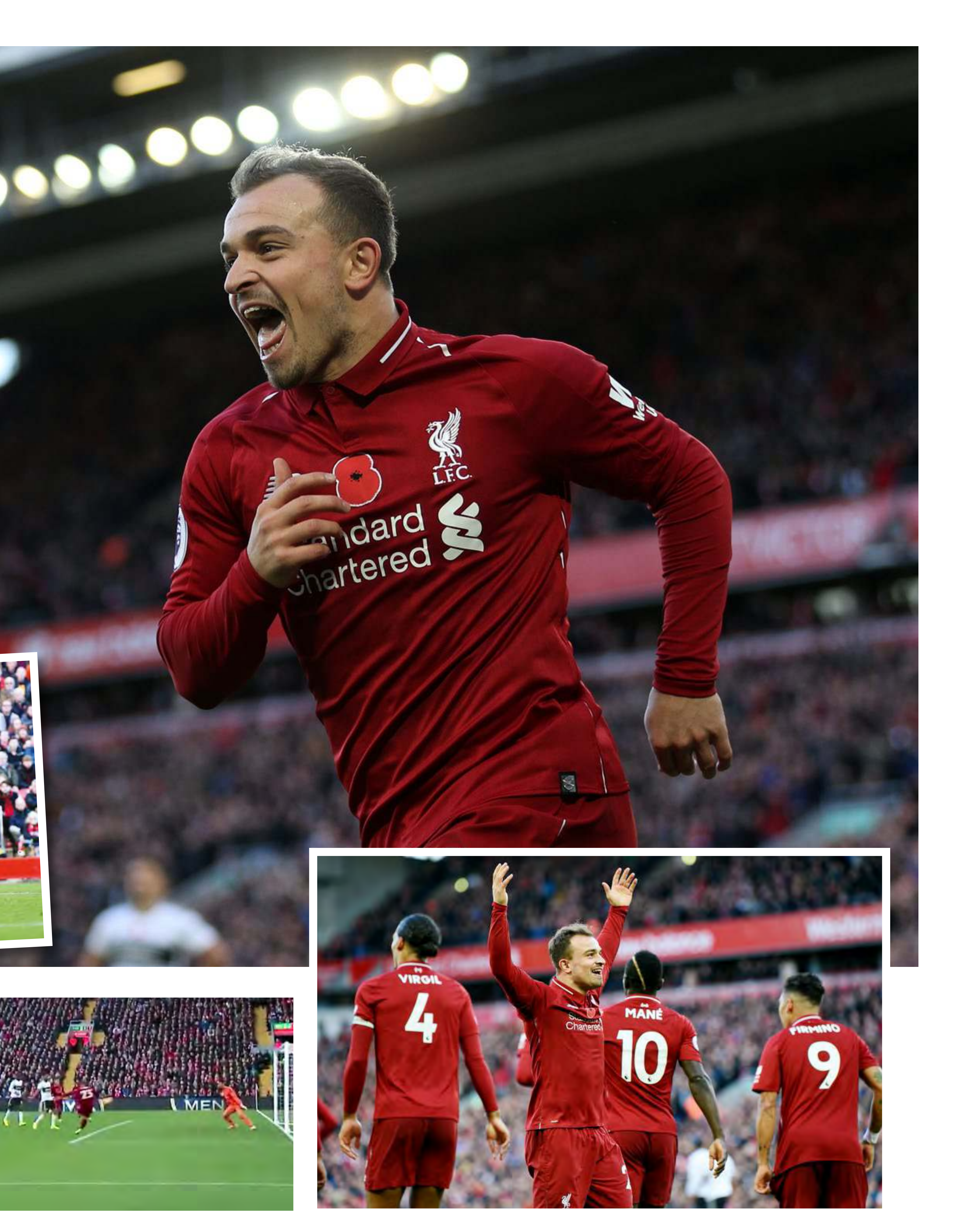











L.F.C.
Standard Chartered
VIRGIL
4
MANÉ
10
FIRMINO
9



"WOW"

ALEXANDER-ARNOLD V WATFORD (A) SATURDAY 24 NOVEMBER

It takes nerve and not a little courage to take a free-kick 25 yards from goal when your team is defending a one-nil lead away from home and you've got the options of Mo Salah, one of the most prolific scorers in the current Premier League, and Virgil van Dijk, with a set-piece pedigree all of his own, both prepared to step up if necessary.

Full-back Trent had no qualms and the outcome at Vicarage Road was sensational. Such confidence sets the 20-year-old apart – as does ability and technique. Afterwards he revealed to the club website: "Hendo passed the ball to me because the gaffer said before the game that me and Shaq [who'd been subbed by then] would be on them. That's why me and Hendo had a little laugh together when we celebrated. It's always good to be able to score and contribute to a win." The gaffer: "Trent's free-kick...wow! It was about time actually – it was long ago that we played Hoffenheim [when he last scored from a free-kick]!"


ALEXANDER-ARNOLD
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MANE CHRISTMAS

When Sadio Mane pounced to score a 90th-minute winner at Everton six days before Christmas 2016 it inspired jubilant Kopites to rework a Shakin' Stevens Christmas classic: "Mane scoring, all around us, Kopites singing, having fun. It's the season, love and understanding"...you know the rest.



PICK OF THE PACK
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PLEASE KEEP
LIVERPOOL TIDY
FC Nomads
LIVERPOOL
UEFA CUP
ROMA
96
25 YEARS
LEGENDS
MATCHDAY
LIVERPOOL ALL-STAR
CHARITY MATCH
ANFIELD
City of Liverpool
ANFIELD
ROAD L4
LIVERPOOL F.C.
CHAMPIONS



BIG FAT QUIZ OF THE YEAR

From Klopp to the Kop to Kiev and back:
50 fiendish questions about Liverpool FC in 2018

Question-master: Chris McLoughlin

JANUARY

1. Who scored Liverpool's first goal of 2018 on New Year's Day?

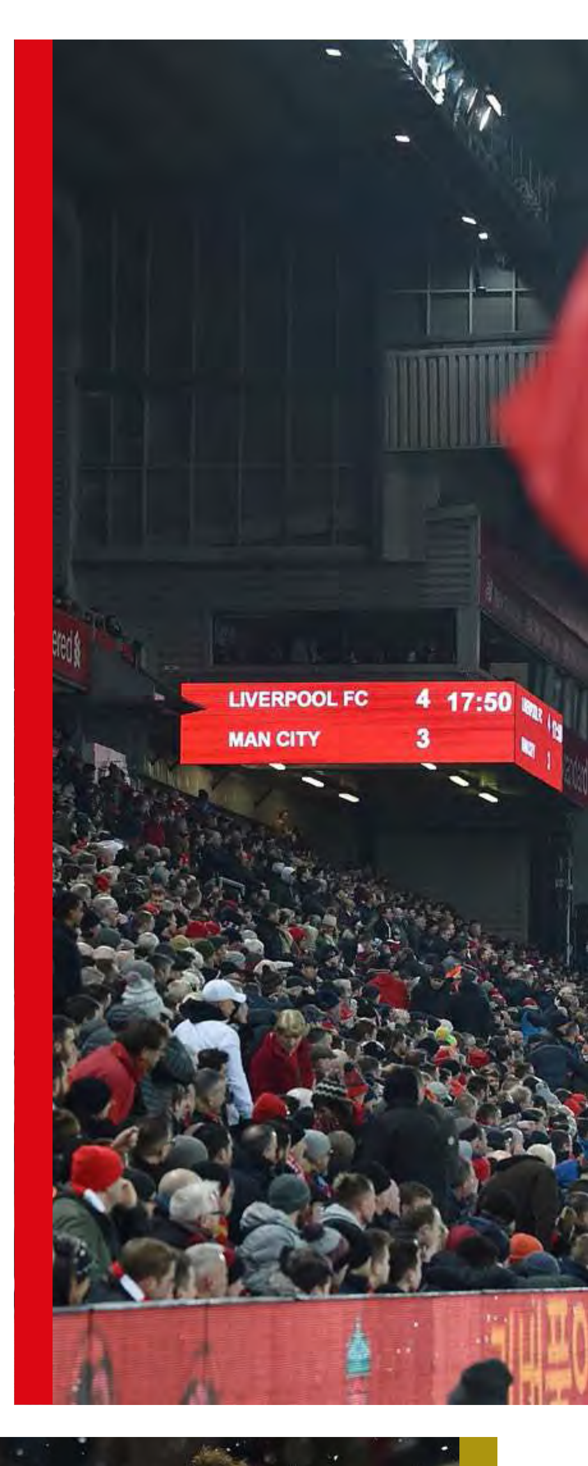
2. Virgil van Dijk memorably headed home a debut winner against Everton in the FA Cup but who took the Kop-end corner from which he scored?

3. With Jordan Henderson and James Milner missing, who captained the Reds to the 4-3 Premier League win against Manchester City at Anfield?

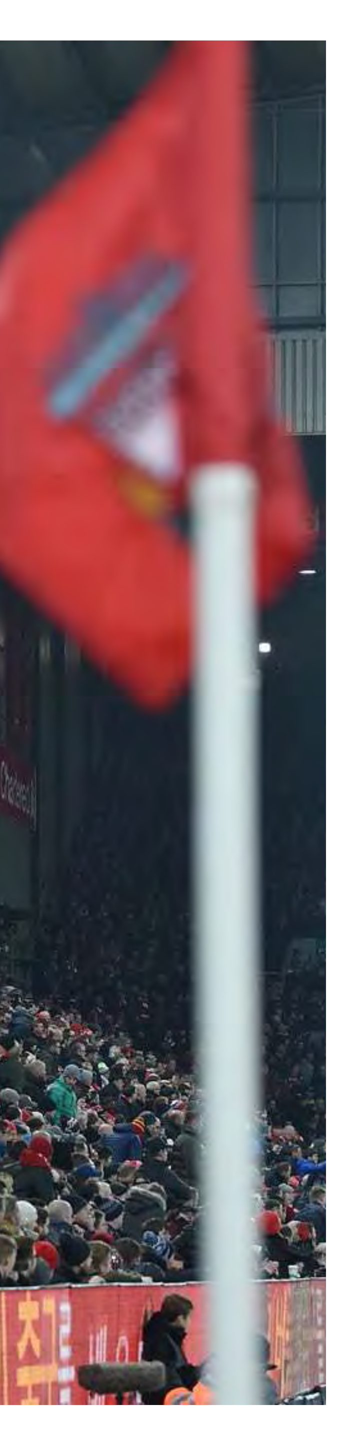
4. Which team became the first to score three times against Liverpool in the first half of an FA Cup tie since 1948 when they won 3-2 at Anfield?

5. Name the Liverpool player who played against his half-brother, Rajiv van La Parra, when the Reds beat Huddersfield Town 3-0 at the John Smith's Stadium...











FEBRUARY

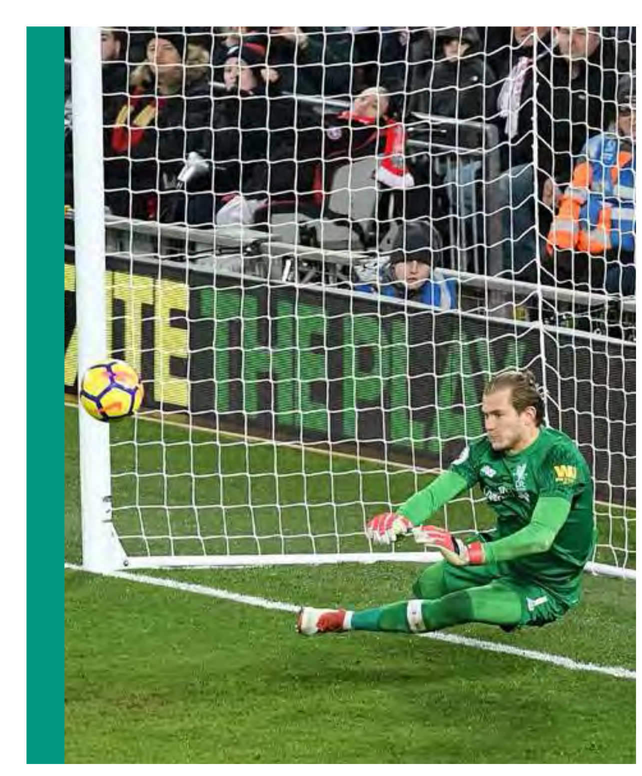
1. Loris Karius saved a penalty from which Premier League striker during a game at Anfield in February?

2. With Jordan Henderson and James Milner missing, who captained the Reds to the 2-0 Premier League win against Southampton at St Mary's?

3. Which player scored his first Liverpool hat-trick as the Reds condemned Porto to their record home defeat in Europe with a 5-0 win at Estadio do Dragao in the Champions League?

4. Song of the year *Allez Allez Allez* first caught on at Porto away but which two Liverpool managers are mentioned in the lyrics?

5. Which visiting manager failed to win at Anfield for the 15th time from 15 visits when West Ham United were beaten 4-1?



MARCH

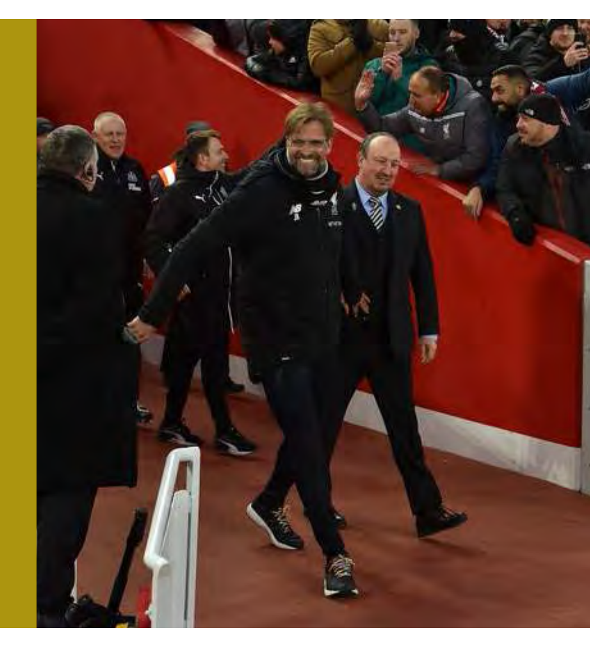
1. Liverpool beat Rafa Benitez's Newcastle United 2-0 at Anfield with both sets of fans singing the Spaniard's name – but which two players got their names on the scoresheet?

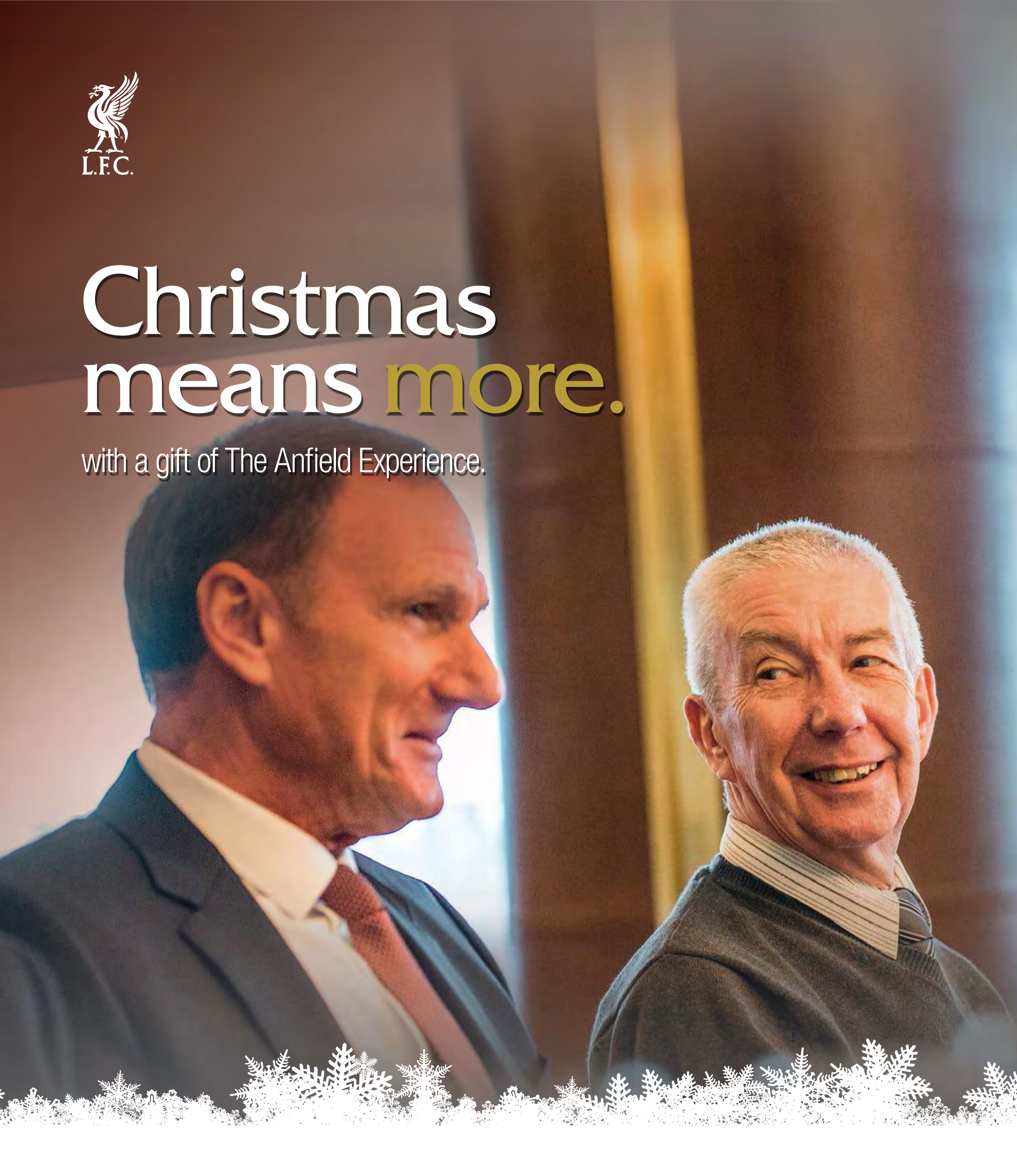
2. Who was the World Cup-winner who received a standing ovation from the Kop and kept a clean-sheet as Porto held Liverpool to a 0-0 draw at Anfield in the last 16 of the Champions League?

3. Mo Salah scored four goals for the first time when Liverpool beat Watford 5-0 at Anfield. Who was the other goalscorer on the day?

4. Those four goals took Salah's tally for season 2017/18 season to 36, the most in a debut campaign for any Liverpool player to surpass the club-record of 33 set by which ex-Reds striker?

5. Jürgen Klopp won his 100th Premier League match in March with a 2-1 victory, courtesy of goals from Sadio Mane and Mo Salah, on which London ground?





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APRIL

1. Which player started at right-back in Liverpool's 3-0 Champions League quarter-final win against Manchester City at Anfield?

2. Liverpool beat Bournemouth 3-0 at Anfield on the same day that which horse was winning the Grand National at Aintree?

3. Who scored his first Liverpool goal since 2015 in the 2-2 draw at West Bromwich Albion?

4. What word was spelt out in a Kop mosaic before Liverpool's 5-2 Champions League semi-final first leg win against Roma at Anfield?

5. Which manager – who scored two Premier League goals against Liverpool as a player in 2002 – presented Mo Salah with his PFA Player of the Year award at a ceremony in London?





MAY

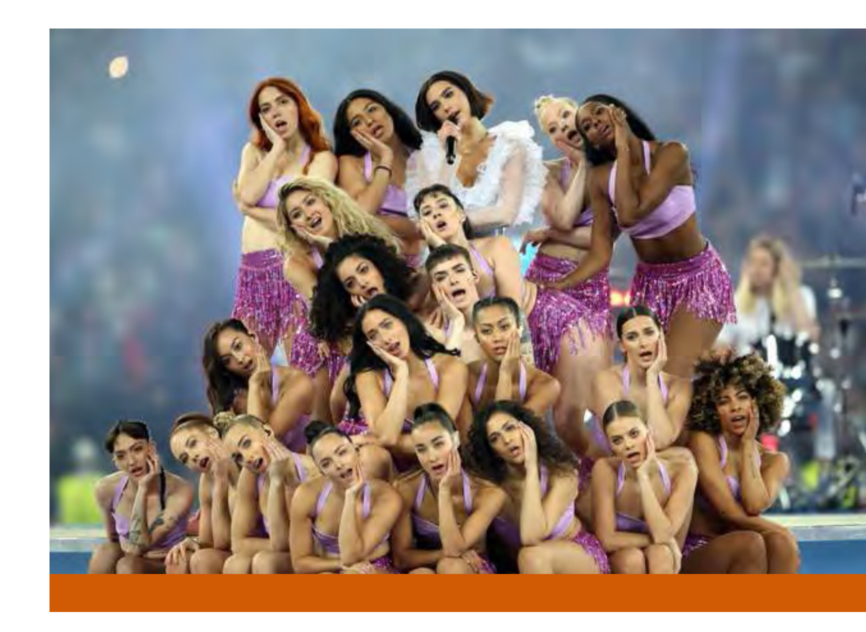
1. Which two players scored for Liverpool past Alisson during the Reds' Champions League semi-final second leg against Roma at the Stadio Olimpico?

2. Name the two players who netted their first goals for Liverpool in the 4-0 Anfield win against Brighton…

3. And which youngster made his only Premier League appearance of 2018 as a second-half substitute for Mo Salah during that victory against the Seagulls?

4. Name the singer who performed her chart-topping single *One Kiss* before Liverpool took on Real Madrid in the Champions League final…

5. And name Jürgen Klopp's starting XI for the Champions League final against Real Madrid in Kiev plus the two subs that came on…





JUNE AND JULY

1. Six Liverpool players made appearances at the World Cup in Russia. Name them…

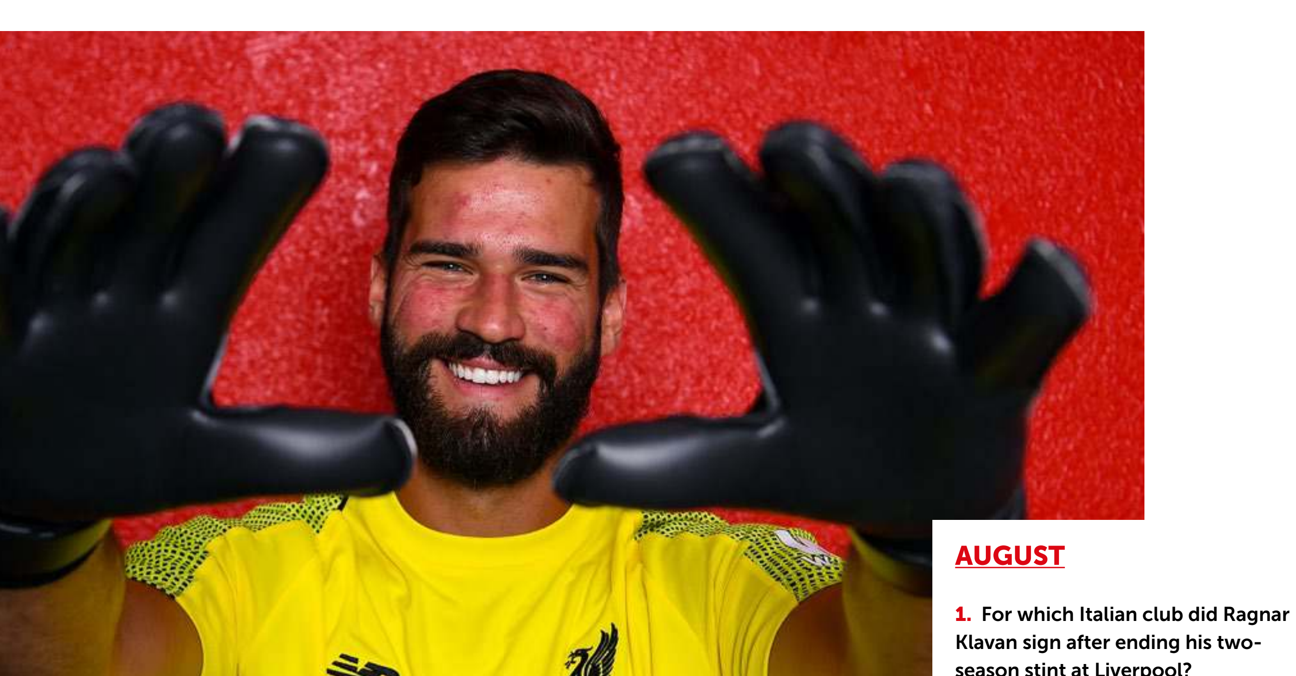
2. Jürgen Klopp signed four new players in July. Their names are…?

3. Which player was sold to Leicester City for a transfer fee of £12.5 million having not made an appearance in 2018?

4. Liverpool beat Manchester United 4-1 in a pre-season friendly in Michigan in front of over 101,000 fans, but by what nickname is that stadium known?

5. Rangers boss Steven Gerrard took which two Liverpool youngsters to Ibrox on season-long loans?







AUGUST

1. For which Italian club did Ragnar Klavan sign after ending his two-season stint at Liverpool?

2. Who scored just 24 seconds after coming on as a substitute in the 4-0 win against West Ham at Anfield on the opening weekend of season 2018/19?

3. James Milner became the first player to convert eight consecutive Premier League penalties during the 2-0 win at Crystal Palace after which ex-Red fouled Mo Salah in the box?

4. Liverpool also set a new Premier League record when they faced Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park as it was the 73rd time that they had done what?

5. How many goals did Alisson concede in the Premier League in August?


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SEPTEMBER

1. Liverpool's 2-1 win at Leicester City meant Jürgen Klopp became the first Reds manager to win the opening four games of a league season since whom?

2. Gini Wijnaldum scored his first Premier League goal away from home at which stadium?

3. Who made his Liverpool debut in the 3-2 Champions League win against Paris Saint-Germain at Anfield?

4. Name the Liverpool player who netted his first goal for the Reds at Anfield when he scored in the 3-0 Premier League win against Southampton...

5. Who started in goal when the Reds faced Chelsea in the Carabao Cup and which goalkeeper was named as a substitute?







OCTOBER

1. Name the player who made his 50th appearance for Liverpool during the 1-0 Champions League defeat to Napoli in Naples...

2. On the same weekend that the Reds drew 0-0 with Manchester City at Anfield, giants were roaming the streets of Liverpool as part of the *Giant Spectacular* event – what was the name of the giant dog?

3 Liverpool won their 200th Premier League away game with a 1-0 victory against which club?

4. Who came on in the 4-0 Champions League win against Red Star Belgrade at Anfield to make his 31st appearance in Europe for the Reds but is still yet to score in European competition?

5. During that Red Star match Mo Salah scored his 50th Liverpool goal to set a new club-record for the fewest games taken to reach a half-century. How many games did it take him? (a) 62, (b) 65 (c) 68?





NOVEMBER

1. **What did Liverpool do for the first time in the Premier League at Arsenal and the first time in the Champions League in Belgrade just four days later?**

2. James Milner became the third player wearing the no7 shirt to score against Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium during our 1-1 draw there. Who are the other two?

3. Who came on in the 2-0 Champions League defeat to Red Star in Belgrade to make his first LFC appearance for 15 months?

4. Mo Salah and Xherdan Shaqiri both scored in the 2-0 Premier League win against Fulham at Anfield. Which two players supplied the assists?

5. What are the four missing words from this Virgil van Dijk song that Kopites started singing in November? "He's our centre-half, he's our ___ ___, watch him defend, and we watch him ___. He'll pass the ball, ___ as you like, he's Virgil van Dijk, he's Virgil van Dijk..."



ANSWERS

January: 1. Sadio Mane (at Burnley); 2. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain; 3. Dejan Lovren; 4. West Bromwich Albion; 5. Gini Wijnaldum (they both have the same father).
February: 1. Harry Kane (who also scored a penalty for Spurs in the same 2-2 draw); 2. Emre Can; 3. Sadio Mane; 4. Bob Paisley and Bill Shankly; 5. David Moyes (who had also taken charge of Everton and Man United at Anfield).
March: 1. Mo Salah and Sadio Mane; 2. Iker Casillas (a World Cup-winner with Spain in 2010); 3. Roberto Firmino; 4. Fernando Torres (who scored 33 goals in season 2007/08); 5. Crystal Palace's Selhurst Park.
April: 1. Trent Alexander-Arnold; 2. Tiger Roll; 3. Danny Ings; 4. Allez; 5. England boss Gareth Southgate.
May: 1. Sadio Mane and Gini Wijnaldum; 2. Dominic Solanke and Andy Robertson; 3. Ben Woodburn; 4. Dua Lipa; 5. Karius, Alexander-Arnold, Robertson, van Dijk, Lovren, Henderson, Milner, Wijnaldum, Firmino, Salah, Mane all started, Lallana and Can came on as subs.
June and July: 1. Jordan Henderson, Trent Alexander-Arnold (both England), Dejan Lovren (Croatia), Sadio Mane (Senegal), Mo Salah (Egypt), Roberto Firmino (Brazil); 2. Naby Keita (from RB Leipzig), Fabinho (from Monaco), Xherdan Shaqiri (from Stoke City) and Alisson (from Roma); 3. Danny Ward; 4. The Big House; 5. Ovie Ejaria and Ryan Kent.
August: 1. Cagliari; 2. Daniel Sturridge; 3. Mamadou Sakho; 4. Played a Premier League game on a Monday; 5. None (in 3 games against West Ham, Crystal Palace and Brighton).
September: 1. Kenny Dalglish (in 1990/91); 2. Wembley (in the 2-1 win at Spurs); 3. Fabinho; 4. Joel Matip; 5. Simon Mignolet started with Kamil Grabara on the bench.
October: 1. Joe Gomez; 2. Xolo; 3. Huddersfield Town; 4. Alberto Moreno; 5. (b) 65 (beating Albert Stubbins' previous record of 77 games).
November: 1. Wear their deep-violet away-kit for the first time in both competitions; 2. Robbie Keane (in 2008) and Luis Suarez (in 2011 and 2013); 3. Divock Origi; 4. Trent Alexander-Arnold (for Salah) and Andy Robertson (for Shaqiri); 5. 'Number', 'four', 'score' and 'calm' are the missing words!



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DIVOCK ORIGI!

He hadn't played at Anfield for 18 months but Divock Origi proved good things come to those who wait when he nodded home a 96th-minute winner after Jordan Pickford misjudged Virgil van Dijk's volley and the ball bounced down off the crossbar. It was a sweet moment for a player who suffered a nasty injury against the Blues in 2016 but now has three goals against Everton, this one sparking mayhem!



ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

So says Sadio Mane as he looks ahead to 2019 and Liverpool's quest for success

At the time this issue went to print Sadio Mane was the owner of a proud Anfield record. For as far as games at the Reds' famous home was concerned, whenever Sadio scores, Liverpool win.

The 26-year-old flyer, who gave fans an early Christmas present when he agreed terms on a new long-term deal with the club, smiles in trademark fashion at mention of the feat but he also remains typically modest about his personal goals.

"I am someone who does not like to talk about myself, but the only thing I can say is that I am doing my best to score more goals and also provide more assists and defend for the team as well. I think everybody loves the way that we play, we all enjoy it as players and it is a good fit for me. Do I set myself goalscoring targets? I think the only target I have in my head is to win something with the team and I am looking forward to doing that with all the boys. That is the biggest goal and you have to believe it is possible."

HOME SWEET HOME

Up to and including November 2018 the Reds had always won when Sadio Mane scored at Anfield, and here's the game-by-game proof…

10 Sept 2016 v Leicester City (Premier League): won 4-1; scored 31 mins; right foot, inside area, Anfield Road end. The first game played in front of the expanded Main Stand and 53,075 watch Sadio finish a devastating move, Daniel Sturridge back-heeling for him to scoop the ball over Foxes goalie Kasper Schmeichel.

24 Sept 2016 v Hull City (Premier League): won 5-1; scored 36 mins: right foot, inside area, Anfield Road end. Puts the Reds 3-0 up by the interval, grabbing his goal following good work from Adam Lallana, who spins and picks out the Senegalese attacker, who turns to beat keeper David Marshall low to his right.

22 Oct 2016 v West Brom (Premier League): won 2-1; scored 20 mins; right foot, inside area, Anfield Road end. The then no19 breaks the deadlock against Tony Pulis' well-drilled visitors. Emre Can releases Firmino down the left, and the Brazilian's cross enables Sadio to volley home his fourth of the season.

6 Nov 2016 v Watford (Premier League): won 6-1; scored 27 mins; header, inside box, Anfield Road end. Liverpool produce a rampant display to go top of the Premier League table. Sadio's first goal follows a short corner between Coutinho and James Milner, with Mane glancing an excellent header up and over Heurelho Gomes.

6 Nov 2016 v Watford (Premier League): won 6-1; scored 60 mins; right-foot, inside box, Kop end. Sadio strikes again to make it 5-0 on the hour-mark. Team-mate Roberto Firmino confuses Hornets defender Jose Holebas before teeing up Mane. "If we still had Suarez," sings the Kop, "he'd be on the bench!"

11 Feb 2017 v Tottenham (Premier League): won 2-0: scored 16 mins: right foot, inside area, Anfield Road end. Back from the Africa Cup of Nations, he scores two goals in three minutes. This first comes when Gini Wijnaldum plays the most incisive of passes for Mane to fire past Hugo Lloris.

11 Feb 2017 v Tottenham (Premier League: won 2-0; scored 18 mins; right foot, inside area, Anfield Road end. Pounces on Eric Dier's poor control and squares for Lallana. Lloris saves then denies Firmino but Mane tucks away the loose ball. With 11 goals and four assists, no Liverpool player had been directly involved in more Prem goals to this point in the season.

4 March 2017 v Arsenal (Premier League): won 3-1; scored 40 mins; right foot, inside area, Anfield Road end. Takes his Premier League tally for his debut LFC season to a dozen with an unerring finish to put the Reds 2-0 up from Firmino's precise pass following a lovely team-move.

Mane has been pleased with the start to a campaign which had seen him contribute seven goals by the start of December. "Honestly, I think we have made a great start with 36 points after 14 games. That is a start we can be pleased with, but of course we need to carry that on now. We are Liverpool and we have our fans behind us in every game so we are going to go and fight as we usually do to keep going."

Last season's strong finish saw the Reds reach the final of the Champions League and Mane admits expectations of them are probably higher as a result. Nonetheless, he believes the squad are keeping clear heads as they go about taking their work one game at a time.

"I think maybe people have been expecting more from the beginning. That is normal. At the beginning of the season last year we struggled a little bit because we lacked the goals that we produced towards the end of the season, but we improved by working hard and we have dealt with the pressure quite well.

"I think by the end of November this season we had scored a similar amount of goals to last season. If you compare the goals, it is the same but the points total is far



away better. That is very, very interesting. In the end, you only need to win football matches by one goal!

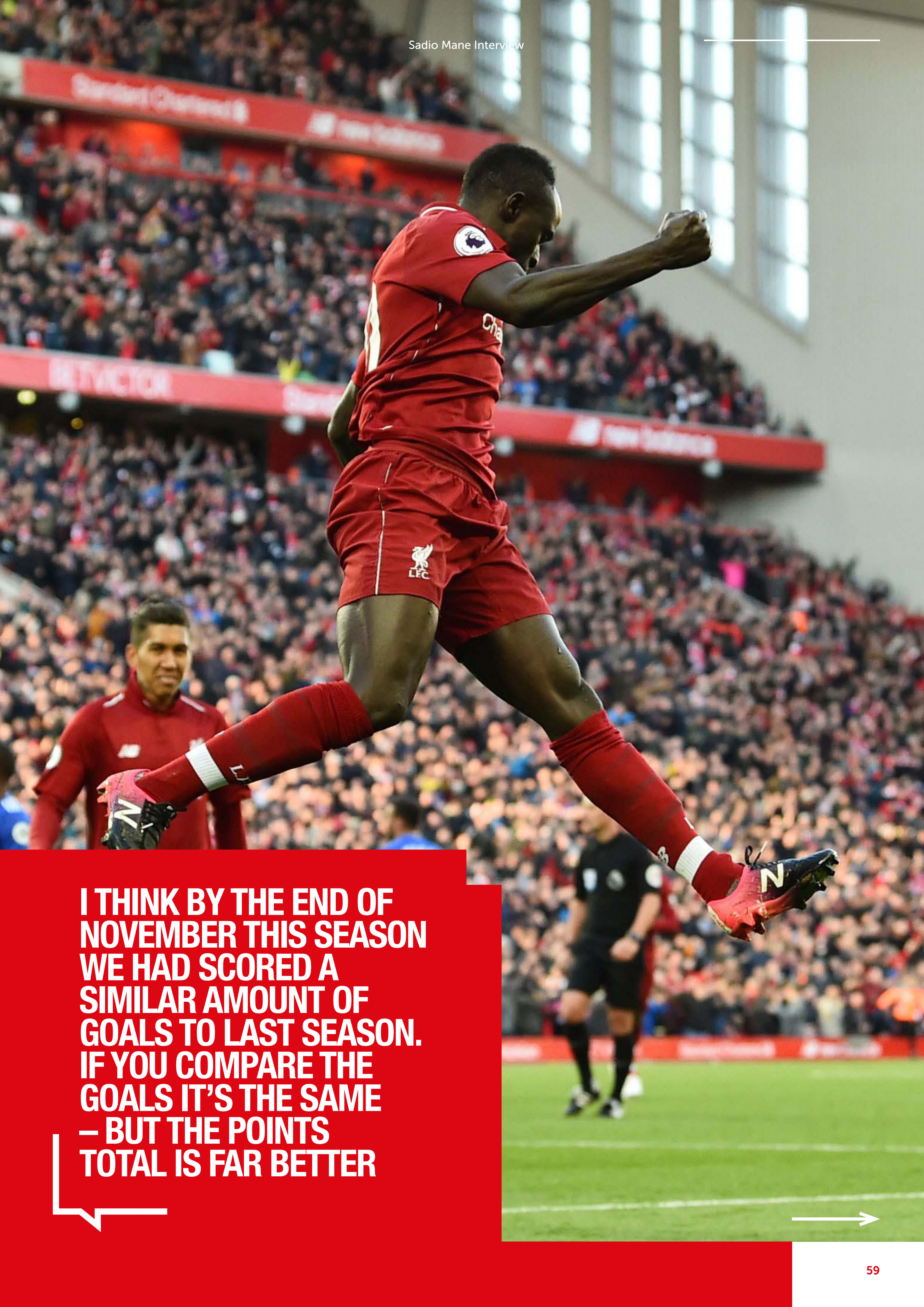
"Like I always say, we could always do better – that is part of football – but now we know that we have had a better start than last season we are going to fight to keep that going over a busy period and hopefully in the next few months we will score more goals and people will look forward to watching us."

The Reds started December as one of two unbeaten teams with champions Manchester City also yet to taste defeat. "That is why the Premier League is the toughest



league in the world," says Sadio. "It has always been competitive and this season it is more so than ever. It is exciting for all the guys watching it and all the players playing in it and that is something great.

"City is one of the best teams in the world and Chelsea as well, and you can't forget Manchester United,



I THINK BY THE END OF NOVEMBER THIS SEASON WE HAD SCORED A SIMILAR AMOUNT OF GOALS TO LAST SEASON. IF YOU COMPARE THE GOALS IT'S THE SAME – BUT THE POINTS TOTAL IS FAR BETTER

1 April 2017 v Everton (Premier League): won 3-1; scored 8 mins: left foot, inside area, Anfield Road end. A stunning solo strike puts the Reds into an eighth-minute lead in the 228th Merseyside derby. Plays a one-two with Firmino before slaloming from right to left and angling a left-footed drive into the net.

19 Aug 2017 v Crystal Palace (Premier League): won 1-0; scored 73 mins: right foot, inside area, Kop end. Palace midfielder Luka Milivojevic is under no pressure when he intercepts a cross-field ball but two careless touches carry it away from him and into the path of Mane who sweeps beyond Wayne Hennessey from close-range.

27 Aug 2017 v Arsenal (Premier League): won 4-0; scored 40 mins: right foot, inside area, Anfield Road end. Arsenal lose the ball in the Liverpool penalty-area and are ruthlessly punished on the counter-attack: Gomez, Wijnaldum, Can, Firmino, Mane, who cuts inside from the left and curls his shot past a hapless Cech.

6 Dec 2017 v Spartak Moscow (Champions League): won 7-0; scored 47 mins: right foot, inside area, Kop end. Milner, who's replaced Moreno, sends over a cross from the left and Mane smashes in a spectacular volley with venomous power. It puts Liverpool five goals to the good in the last group game.

6 Dec 2017 v Spartak Moscow (Champions League): won 7-0; scored 76 mins; right foot, inside area, Kop end. Substitute Daniel Sturridge is the provider, setting up his fellow attacker with a pass across goal. Although the cross is slightly behind him, Sadio drags his foot backwards to provide an inventive finish.

14 Jan 2018 v Man City (Premier League): won 4-3; scored 61 mins; left foot, inside area, Anfield Road end. Scores the goal that puts his side 3-1 up just after the hour-mark. Salah accelerates past two players and seeks him out; his stunning left-footed strike beat City keeper Ederson from the edge of the penalty-area.

24 Feb 2018 v West Ham (Premier League): won 4-1; scored 77 mins; right foot, inside area, Kop end. The Reds sweep from one end of the field to the other, Firmino playing a perfectly-weighted pass for the overlapping Andy Robertson whose low cross is finished by Sadio, his shot going in off the post to beat Adrian.

3 Mar 2018 v Newcastle (Premier League): won 2-0; scored 55 mins; right foot, inside area, Kop end. Another team goal as Sadio doubles the Reds' advantage over Rafa's Newcastle. The move culminates in Mane taking a touch and opening up his body before blasting beyond Magpies keeper Martin Dubravka.

4 Apr 2018 v Man City (Champions League): won 3-0; scored 31 mins; header, inside area, Kop end. At a bouncing Anfield, Salah lifts a perfect cross from inside the area and the Senegalese

Tottenham and Arsenal too. City and Chelsea are doing very well, playing great football and scoring more goals than anyone in the league, but the most important thing for us is not just stopping City but just trying to be consistent.

"The most important thing for us is to focus on ourselves and make sure we do our jobs and win as many games as we can. We can't just think about City and



Chelsea – I don't think that will help us."

Mane and his fellow forwards Mo Salah and Roberto Firmino have enjoyed a fine 2018, sharing 64 goals between them during the calendar year as at the end of November. But while they have enjoyed helping the Reds with those scoring statistics, Mane is keen to emphasise that it is always a team-effort.

"I always enjoy playing alongside these great players and they make everything easy for me! We love to play



together and we love to give each other the pass to score. Everyone talks about myself, Mo and Bobby, but, believe me, the work starts from the beginning. We are Liverpool, and we have a great team all over. They make the foundation for us, and make it easier for the forwards to shine."

One man who has made a huge difference since joining back in January is central defender Virgil van Dijk. Mane already knew of the Dutchman's qualities having previously played alongside him in the Premier League at Southampton.

"I always spoke to him at Southampton and since he came here, he has shown that he's a top, top player, so the quality is growing and I have never been surprised with what he has been doing to help make us stronger defensively. When you are training as well as in a game, he is always doing something special to help his team win games. He is one of the best defenders in the world. It is always a tough game when you are up against him."

Another familiar face to have joined the Reds in 2018 is Guinea midfielder Naby Keita. "I have known Naby since we played together at Red Bull Salzburg. He is a


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THE PASS TO SCORE





striker darts between Fernandinho and Kyle Walker to beat Ederson with a powerful downwards header, putting Liverpool in firm control of the tie.

14 Apr 2018 v Bournemouth (Premier League): won 3-0; scored 7 mins: right foot, inside area, Anfield Road end. Skipper Jordan Henderson picks out Sadio in the centre of the area and although Bournemouth keeper Asmir Begovic parries his header, the Senegalese speedster was first to the loose ball.

24 Apr 2018 v Roma (Champions League): won 5-2; scored 56 mins; right foot, inside area, Kop end. On a thrilling Anfield night of European football, Salah is the provider, crossing the ball from the right of the six-yard box for Sadio to slide the ball home past a certain Alisson Becker.

12 Aug 2018 v West Ham (Premier League): won 4-0; scored 45 mins; right foot, inside area, Kop end. The opening game of the season sees Sadio, now wearing the no10 jersey, score on the stroke of half-time. Milner's cut-back leaves him with the simple task of tapping the ball into an empty net from inside the six-yard box.

12 Aug 2018 v West Ham (Premier League): won 4-0; scored 53 mins: right foot, inside area, Anfield Road end. Firmino flicks the ball into the box for Sadio to turn and rifle home. The *BBC Sport* website reports: "Mane's intelligence brought him off the wing into central positions for both his goals."

24 Oct 2018 v Red Star Belgrade (Champions League): won 4-0; scored 79 mins: right foot, inside area, Kop end. Puts the disappointment of a missed penalty three minutes earlier behind him as he accepts a pass from Sturridge, takes a touch to take the ball out of his feet before stretching to stab past the advancing keeper.

27 Oct 2018 v Cardiff City (Premier League): won 4-1; scored 66 mins: left foot, inside area, Kop end. A goal all about persistence as Sadio doubles Liverpool's lead. After being fed by Robertson on the edge of the area he evades a couple of defenders and unleashes an unstoppable angled drive across the keeper.

27 Oct 018 v Cardiff City (Premier League): won 4-1; scored 87 mins: right foot, inside area, Kop end. Receives the ball in his own half before finding Salah then sprinting forward on the diagonal for the return pass. Shows composure to loft an exquisite finish beyond keeper Etheridge and make the game safe at 4-1.

The stats: 24 Anfield goals; 11 Anfield Road end; 13 Kop end; 24 inside the area; 19 right foot; 3 left foot; 2 headers; 8 Firmino assists.



great player and also young; he still has a lot to learn and improve.

"When he came he surprised everyone but not me, because I know him. I'm sure he will do great things for us. Now he is back with the team and we are happy to have him. I'm looking forward to seeing him helping the team as he can."

Mane also cautions that it always takes young players time to adjust to the particular demands of the Premier League and points to himself as a prime example.

"Of course we need to be patient [with Naby] and it was very, very complicated for me when I first came to the Premier League but with each passing year it has got easier. With him I think we need to be patient and we will see him settle into the league.

"I remember when I came to England the first few games were fine but then for three or four months I was struggling because it was different. But I had all the staff behind me and my team-mates as well and they made things easier for me.

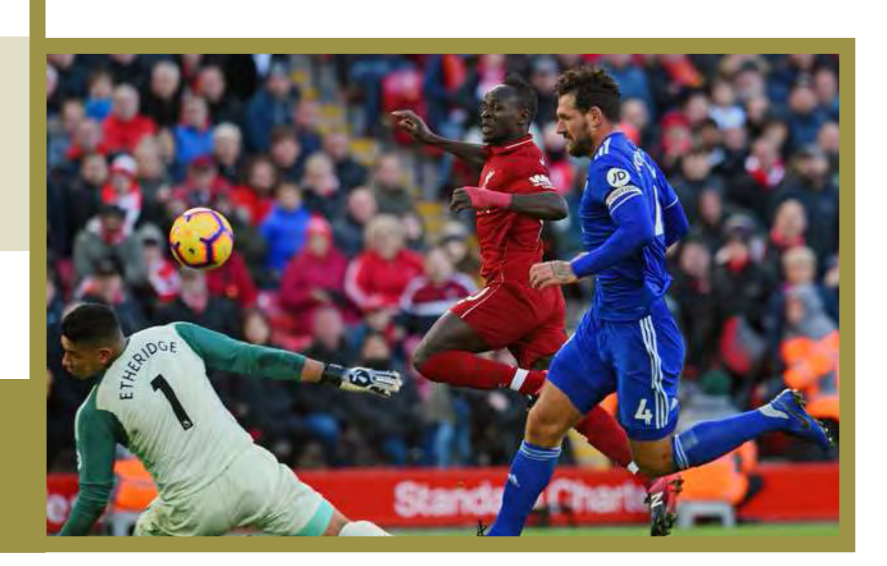
"I am someone who never doubts my ability and I am always in good spirits. In my head I think everything will be fine and I never stop working hard to improve."

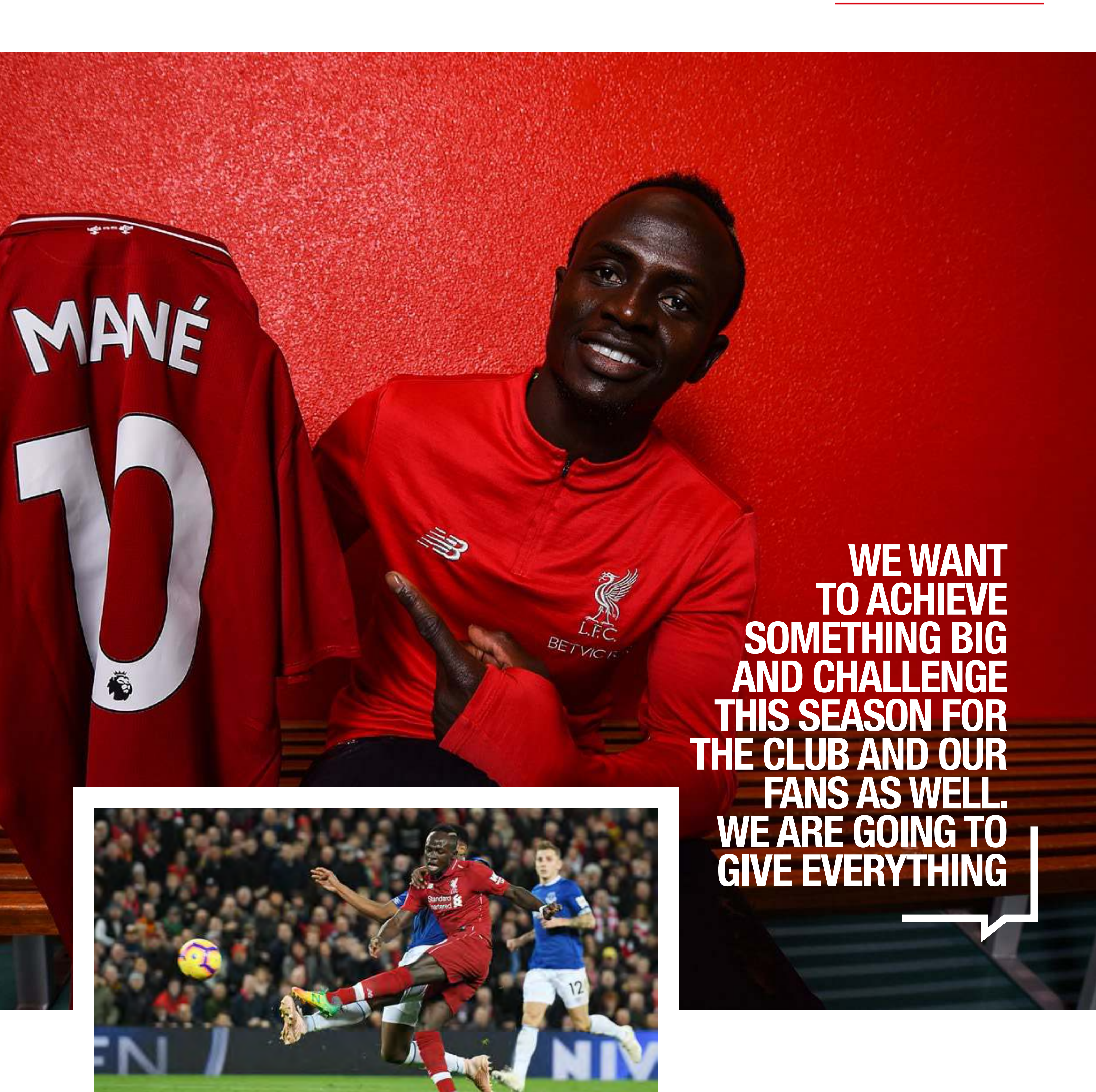
A feature of the Reds' play in the past couple of seasons has been Sadio's understanding down the left flank with the full-backs behind him and he believes that comes from the squad's fierce commitment to continuous development.

"All the boys have improved a lot and we are all working hard and learning every single day in training. Andy Robertson has helped the understanding we have and Alberto Moreno as well.

"What they are doing is great for the team and I am very happy that we have them in the squad."

That record of winning every time he scores at Anfield





now takes in 24 goals in 19 different games across the Premier League and Champions League.

Even so, he says it was an away goal – his first goal for the club on his Premier League debut for the Reds at Arsenal on Sunday 14 August 2016 – that remains his favourite. “A brilliant debut that reminded me of the impact John Barnes made when he signed in 1987,” wrote ex-Red Jan Molby in the *Liverpool Echo*.

Sadio recalls: “I got the ball and I made a run in between the defenders from the side and I tried to move the ball forward and came inside and scored from distance. It was special because it was my debut and I scored and, most importantly, Liverpool won the game.”

Now as the Reds look forward to what 2019 will bring, Sadio remains optimistic it will be plenty of success.

“We want to achieve something big and challenge this season for the club and our fans as well. I’m confident that we have the players in the squad, the staff and the supporters to do it together and we are going to give everything we can to try and achieve that.

“It won’t be easy because there are lots of teams doing well but I have always said that with us anything is possible and we can beat any team in this league.

“We just need to be consistent.”

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LAST LINE OF DEFENCE

While Divock Origi's late Merseyside derby winner will go down in Anfield folklore forever, it would only have been an equaliser if it wasn't for Alisson and Joe Gomez. The Reds keeper made an outstanding point-blank save from Andre Gomes but when the ball bounced back off the Portuguse midfielder it was about to roll over the line only for Gomez to slide in and somehow clear it, even winning a goal-kick off Gylfi Sigurdsson! It was as good as a goal.


Bobby Duncan and Paul Glatzel


Rhys Williams

HALF TERM REPORT

The scores, apps and goals for the U18s and U23s so far in 2018/19


Paul Glatzel, Abdi Sharif, Leighton Clarkson, Neco Williams and Jake Cain

U18s season so far

AUGUST			
11	Sunderland	A	6-1
18	MANCHESTER UNITED	H	1-3
25	WEST BROM	H	5-1
SEPTEMBER			
1	Stoke City	A	2-1
15	NEWCASTLE UNITED	H	4-1
18	PARIS S-G (UYL M1)	H	5-2
22	Blackburn Rovers	A	4-3
29	Stoke City (PLC)	A	2-4
OCTOBER			
3	Napoli (UYL M2)	A	1-1
6	MANCHESTER CITY	H	1-0
20	Wolves	A	3-0
24	RED STAR (UYL M3)	H	2-1
NOVEMBER			
1	EVERTON	H	4-3
6	Red Star (UYL M4)	A	2-0
10	READING (PLC)	H	6-0
23	DERBY COUNTY	H	1-2
28	Paris S-G (UYL M5)	A	2-3
DECEMBER			
1	Middlesbrough	A	6-5

UYL = UEFA Youth League (U19s)



2018/19 Games & Goals

	PL U18s		PL Cup		UEFA Yth League		Total	
Abdi Sharif	4 (3)	1	0	0	0	0	4 (3)	1
Adam Lewis	0	0	0	0	5	1	5	1
Ben Williams	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Bobby Adekanye	0	0	0	0	4	2	4	2
Bobby Duncan	11	12	2	4	2 (3)	0	15 (3)	16
Curtis Jones	0	0	0	0	4	2	4	2
Daniel Atherton	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Edvard Tagseth	3 (2)	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	4 (3)	0
Elijah Dixon-Bonner	6 (4)	2	1 (1)	1	0 (1)	0	7 (6)	3
Fidel O'Rourke	1 (6)	3	2	0	0	0	3 (6)	3
Jack Bearne	0 (5)	1	1	0	0	0	1 (5)	1
Jack Walls	4	1	1	0	0	0	5	1
Jake Cain	9	0	0	0	5	0	14	0
Ki-Jana Hoever	4 (1)	0	1	0	1 (2)	0	6 (3)	0
Leighton Clarkson	9 (2)	2	2	0	1 (2)	0	12 (4)	2
Liam Coyle	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0
Liam Millar	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2
Luis Longstaff	9 (1)	1	2	0	0 (4)	0	11 (5)	1
Matteo Ritaccio	4 (4)	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	5 (5)	0
Morgan Boyes	3	0	1	0	0	0	4	0
Neco Williams	5	0	0	0	5	0	10	0
Niall Brookwell	1 (3)	0	0	0	0	0	1 (3)	0
Paul Glatzel	10	11	1	2	3 (2)	0	14 (2)	13
Rafael Camacho	0	0	0	0	5	2	5	2
Remi Savage	2	0	0 (1)	0	0	0	2 (1)	0
Rhys Williams	9	1	2	0	5	1	16	2
Tom Clayton	8 (1)	1	2	1	4	0	14 (1)	2
Vitezslav Jaros	9	0	1	0	5	0	15	0
Yasser Larouci	8	0	1	0	1 (2)	0	10 (2)	0


Yasser Larouci


Tom Clayton


Ki-Jana Hoever



Rafa Camacho, Bobby Adekanye and Curtis Jones

U23s season so far

August			
10	Brighton & Hove Albion	A	0-0
17	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	H	1-1
24	Manchester City	A	1-1
SEPTEMBER			
2	WEST HAM UNITED	H	1-2
15	SWANSEA CITY	H	3-0
21	Arsenal	A	0-4
29	Chelsea	A	3-1
OCTOBER			
7	West Brom (PLC)	A	0-1
21	DERBY COUNTY	H	2-3
29	Blackburn Rovers	A	1-2
NOVEMBER			
3	LEICESTER CITY	H	3-1
11	BURNLEY (PLC)	H	1-1
21	VILLARREAL (PLIC)	H	0-7
25	Everton	A	1-0
DECEMBER			
2	BOURNEMOUTH (PLC)	H	1-1

Adam Lewis

2018/19 Games & Goals

	PL2		PL Cup		PLIC		Total	
Abdi Sharif	0	0	0	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0
Adam Lewis	11	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	12 (1)	0
Ben Woodburn	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Bobby Adekanye	8 (1)	1	1	0	0	0	9 (1)	1
Bobby Duncan	0	0	0	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0
Caoimhin Kelleher	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
Conor Masterson	2	0	2	0	1	0	5	0
Corey Whelan	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Curtis Jones	5	0	1	0	0	0	6	0
Divock Origi	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Dominic Solanke	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
Elijah Dixon-Bonner	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Fidel O'Rourke	0	0	0 (1)	0	0	0	0 (1)	0
George Johnston	11	0	3	0	0	0	14	0
Glen McAuley	2 (6)	0	2	1	1	0	5 (6)	1
Isaac Christie-Davies	9 (1)	2	3	0	0	0	12 (1)	2
Jake Cain	0	0	0 (1)	0	0	0	0 (1)	0
Juanma	4 (2)	0	2	0	1	0	7 (2)	0
Kai McKenzie-Lyle	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Kamil Grabara	5	0	2	0	0	0	7	0
Ki-Jana Hoever	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Lazar Markovic	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Liam Coyle	0 (3)	0	1 (2)	1	0	0	2 (5)	0
Liam Millar	6 (3)	1	1 (2)	0	1	0	8 (5)	1
Luis Longstaff	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Matty Virtue	10	6	1	0	0	0	11	6
Nathaniel Clyne	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Nathaniel Phillips	6	1	0	0	0	0	6	1
Neco Williams	6	0	3	0	0 (1)	0	9 (1)	0
Pedro Chirivella	11	0	3	0	0	0	14	0
Rafael Camacho	8	2	2	1	0	0	10	3
Rhys Williams	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Shamal George	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0
Sheyi Ojo	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tony Gallacher	1 (4)	0	1	0	0	0	2 (4)	0
Yasser Larouci	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	0



Isaac Christie-Davies




Liam Millar



Nat Phillips


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LITTLE WONDER

Experienced centre-back and new club captain Leandra Little brings bags of experience and ability to Liverpool FC Women and this is her vision for the future

Interview: William Hughes

Prior to this summer you had played part-time football – was it a difficult choice to go full-time?
It was a tough decision. I'd had one opportunity in the past to turn professional and I made the decision not to – due to the nature of where I was in my career. I was working at an eleven-to-18s school in Sheffield and they'd invested in me, so I felt I owed it to them to remain in education at that point and I was really enjoying what I was doing there.

Now my circumstances have changed slightly as I've relocated to Rainhill. So I was living locally to Liverpool and had not committed to a new job within education, so I was at a bit of a crossroads in terms of whether to go back into full-time education or take this opportunity.

So what swung it for you?
I think that with the development of the women's game and the full-time nature of the Women's Super League now, as opposed to five years ago when I was previously given the opportunity, it felt like the right time.

If I'm honest I didn't feel that this opportunity would ever come up in my lifetime. I don't want to look back and say 'what if' and I don't want to have any regrets, thinking that it would've been an amazing opportunity to share with the future generation that I want to inspire.

I also think that making this decision now may aid any role I may have in the future, potentially to perform a head-of-education role within a club or be involved with the development of the women's game at academy level. There is lots more work to be done in that side of the women's game.

So to summarise, it felt like the right time and I just couldn't turn it down. It's like living on cloud nine. Every time I go out to train or play, I'm relishing the moment.

What did your previous teaching role entail?
I did my PGCE [teacher training qualification] at Sheffield Hallam University and then the school where I did my second placement offered me a role within the PE department. I soon gained additional responsibility, working as assistant-head of sixth form in my recently-qualified teacher (RQT) year.

To have a pastoral role within the sixth form was something I thoroughly enjoyed. I love working with that 16-18 age-bracket where they are making decisions about their futures.

I then went on a leadership course and started doing a lot around management within schools. I completed my National Project Qualification for Senior Leadership, and next I was working with the maths department and responsible for standards and achievement. That wasn't an area of my own expertise but I had an external eye, if you like, so I was looking at it from a more holistic point-of-view.

You were also combining your teaching career with playing at a high standard of women's football...
I've always managed my responsibilities and teaching within school alongside my football. When I was at Lincoln Ladies initially, I was still teaching. When I was at Doncaster, I was still teaching. So coming to Liverpool, I also want to plan for the future.

I don't like to use the term 'retirement' – I prefer 'transition'! When Neil [Redfearn] spoke to me about coming here I'd already signed a contract with the Football Association to work as an education-and-welfare officer for the England Women's Under-17s team and that's a role which Neil kindly allowed me to carry out alongside my own football.

I wanted to keep that opportunity to try to inspire the next generation, make young players realise that with the new WSL Academy structure coming into the game they don't have to make a choice between their education and their football.



Yes, they may have a fabulous career in the WSL for 10 to 15 years, but that won't set them up for the rest of their lives. So I want to make sure that whatever they do whilst they're still playing enables them to have something after football.

When you're a footballer and you're only ever known as a footballer, that's your identity. As soon as you finish playing that's taken away from you, whether that be at the end of your career or during your career unexpectedly. Then you're left wondering: who am I and what am I?

But if you've got something else to focus on, to pursue a career in because of what you've done while playing, that can help with finding yourself again and also with your mental-health and wellbeing. Not having to make a choice between education and football, and being able to have a dual career, is a big thing for me.

You are the Reds club captain with Sophie Bradley-Auckland the team captain...

When Neil spoke to me initially about coming to Liverpool it was to train full-time and play within the set-up if the opportunity arose. But he saw it as more than that as well – not necessarily as a link between players and staff because we want to be seen as one, but someone to ensure there was a smooth communication and that we do have that togetherness.

Because of my experience I think it is something that just comes naturally to me. I want to look after people and make sure they feel happy off the pitch as well as on it. I want to develop them as people as well as players, especially the young girls coming through. If you can get that right, you can gel as a team. I see my role as more than just a player. I like to organise and I love a list – just ask my team mates.

I'm part of a big family, the eldest of four siblings with a step-mum and a step-dad, so from a young age I've looked after people and always wanted us to be together as a unit. When I've gone into a team-environment in sport, I've wanted to do the same thing.





You work well with Sophie as team captain too...
It's a nice little partnership. Sophie has had an absolutely unbelievable journey and anybody looking will see her as a role-model and an absolute inspiration. The fact that she is a full-time mum as well as managing to play, and what that takes in terms of travelling and commitment, is outstanding.

Sophie and I have worked together before at Doncaster so we know how each other works and we've got a really nice honest relationship. We will come together and talk about things if we feel there is anything we need to discuss as a team or as staff. I also feel that Sophie's really approachable, so a lot of the players will talk to her about their development quite naturally.

You take a keen interest in helping the young players coming through...
Definitely. I try to drop in little conversations when we are training or when we are travelling to find out how they're doing. We've got an Under-18s player, Missy Bo Kearns, training with the first-team now, so it's a question of making sure that she manages her football and her studies.

I've said to her that we'll get a little study club going – I don't think she was a massive fan of that! But we'll be doing that just to try and help support her and also the likes of Niamh Charles, Amy Rodgers and Ellie Fletcher, all intelligent girls who are studying for degrees alongside managing a full-time football programme. It's something just to be aware of and make sure the girls stay on top of everything. If they are ever finding times challenging, hopefully they feel like they can come and speak to me and I can help out.

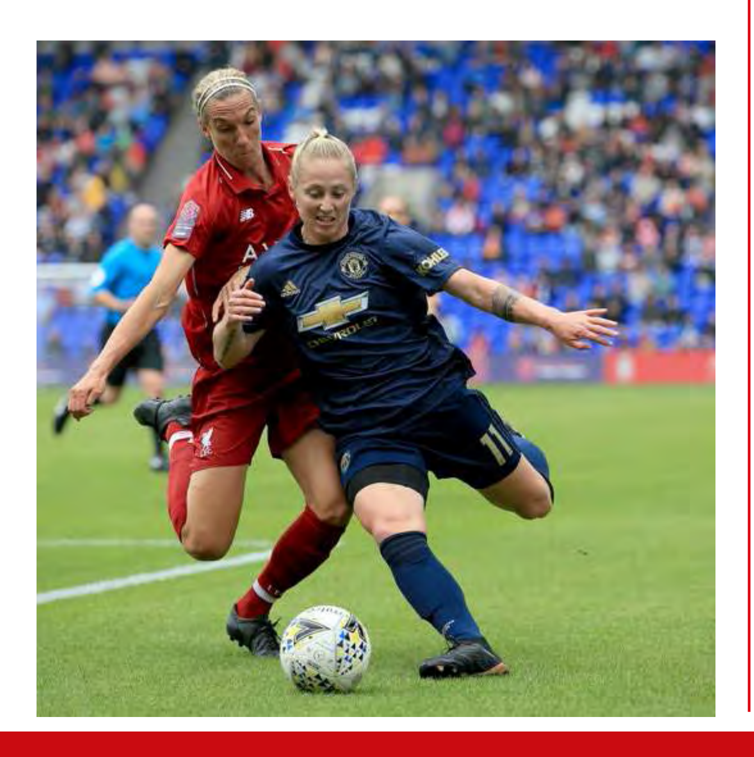
And in terms of the longer-term vision?
I would like to get involved with the new WSL Academy here for the 16-21 age-range. I know our new Academy manager Julie Grundy well as I worked with her previously at Doncaster, and that's where I see my future.

If I can get involved with the younger age-groups here at Liverpool and if they feel like a first-team player's coming down to training and investing time to find out what they're doing on and off the pitch, I'd hope that will encourage them to maintain standards in school as well as on the pitch. That is my aim and vision.

With a dozen new players having been recruited, it was bound to take time for this new-look Liverpool FC Women to settle – how is it going?
The game at Arsenal [a 5-0 loss] was a difficult one but I think you can always take something from every defeat. We learnt a lot about ourselves in that game. It was challenging and no-one ever likes to lose. Every single player that's part of this team wants to win but we just need to make sure that it's kept in perspective.

We are a new team together and we are building the foundations. If we can get the basics right, we can look to build on that. It will take time but I think we will get there and performances will start to come. I've got faith in the players, the staff and the management team and I know that we're all pulling in the same direction and we will learn from the defeats and use them to make us stronger.

Vicky Jepson and Chris Kirkland are working hard to improve the team and the girls are all really positive about the progress that's being made.





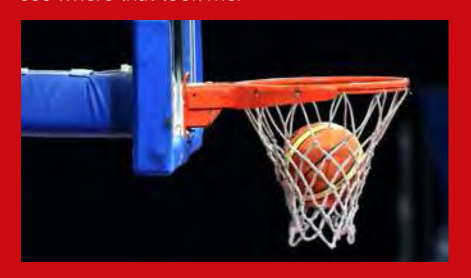
Different ball game

"When I was younger I played both football and basketball. In secondary school I did both but when I got to sixth form I had to make a choice.

"That also influenced my decision in terms of what university I went to. The England basketball coach at the time said that to access the best coaching, facilities and support-network and also have a quality education, he would suggest Sheffield Hallam. I focused on my basketball at that time and was fortunate to have an experience at the junior Olympics in Murcia and I also went on to represent England at senior level which was amazing.

"The choice to come back to football was when I started teaching. I had some really positive experiences within the national basketball team but there was a long-list of players selected and I wasn't on it. There were a lot of girls who had been playing out in America who were coming back and I didn't quite make the cut.

"At that point I reflected on everything. I'd had an amazing time playing basketball and made some great friends for life, but I decided it was time for a change: to go back to football and see where that took me."





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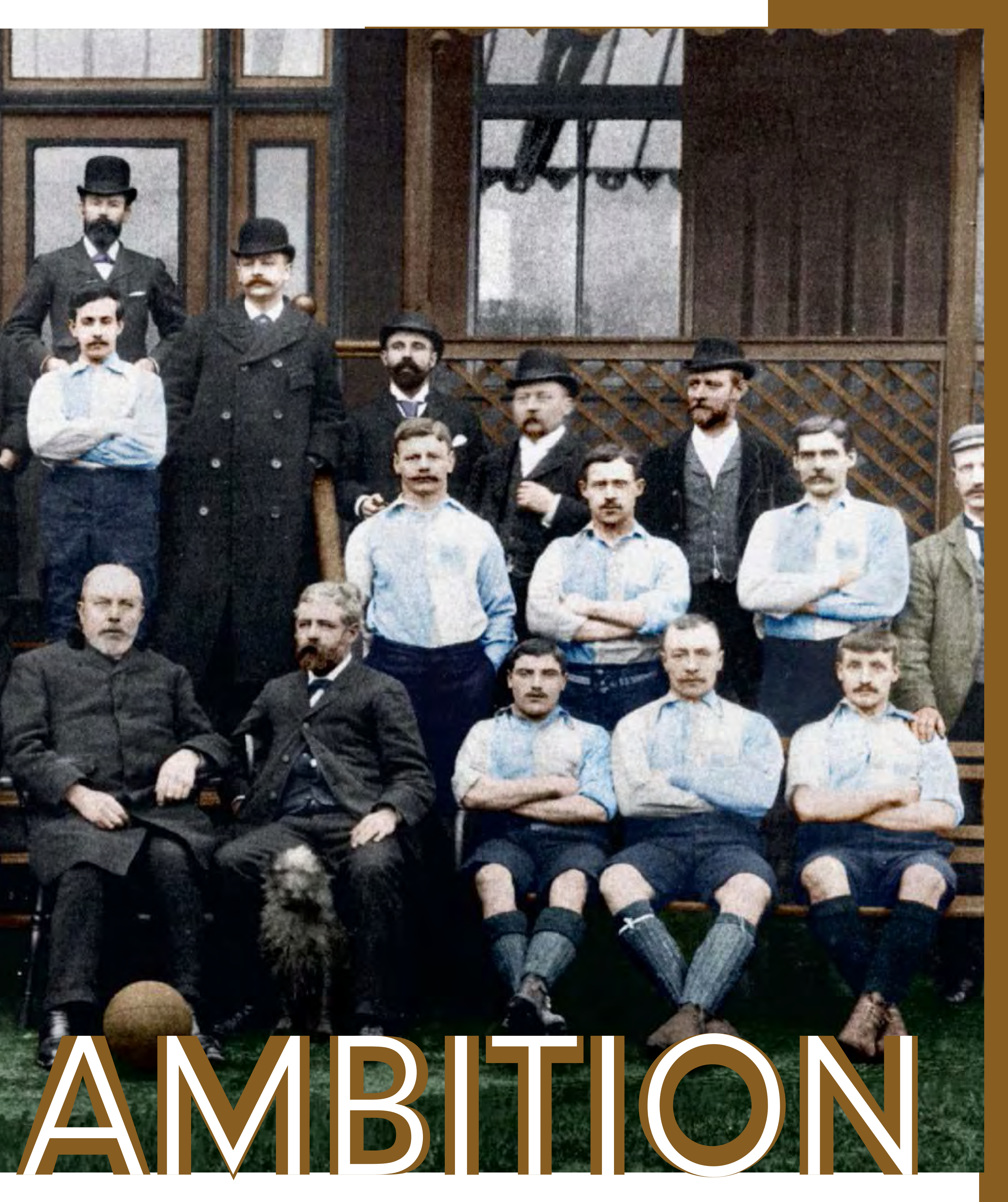


TRENT'S DERBY JOY

He was the only Scouser on the pitch in 232nd Merseyside derby – the 100th in the league at Anfield – and this is what Divock Origi's 96th-minute winning goal meant to Trent Alexander-Arnold. He has now played four times against Everton and the Reds have won three and drawn one of those games – not bad for a 20-year-old from West Derby!



BRONZE



AMBITION

The story behind the new monument at Anfield to Liverpool Football Club's founder – all inside the big red time-machine for a trip back to 1892



THE FOOTBALL FEVER.

Something About The Liverpool Club.

THIS week I have had an opportunity of a chat with a prominent official of the Liverpool Club. . Mr. John Houlding's team it is called in some quarters, but for why, I don't exactly understand. The organisation has been formed into a company and on the committee of management are footballers who know the game from one end to the other, and who will go straight without fear or favour.

.. .. ..

There was no 96 Avenue all those years ago, of course. No Paisley Square nor massive Main Stand. In late 1892, according to an Ordnance Survey map of the time, there was practically nothing on that side of the playing field formerly belonging to Everton FC, not until you got to Lothair Road and the ladder of terrace streets running northwest between Rockfield Road and Anfield Road.

That's how it was in John Houlding's day. And in 2018, amid the landscaped public domain outside the modern stadium, this is where a new bronze bust depicting LFC's founding father in his mayoral finery has been erected.

The entire monument stands just under seven feet tall and was created by Tom Murphy, the local sculptor behind the world-famous Bill Shankly statue outside the Kop, as part of the club's 125th anniversary celebrations.

"We didn't have any symbol at Anfield that was a representation of our founder that our supporters could see and touch and reflect upon," says Reds chief-executive Peter Moore.

"One hundred and twenty-five years is a long time and it was all started by this man. Without him, football on Merseyside certainly wouldn't be what it is today.

"I hope our supporters take the time to go and visit as he looks proudly upon our Main Stand."

As every Reds (and Blues) fan knows, Houlding officially formed Liverpool Football Club on 3 June 1892 following a dispute with Everton who played at Anfield, the ground he owned. The Toffees left and Houlding recruited players for a new team to play here – and LFC was born. He was subsequently appointed Lord Mayor of Liverpool in 1897.





"There are very few pictures of him in existence so I did a lot of research around the style of dress that would have been worn at the time," reveals sculptor Tom. "I was also lucky enough to be able to visit the Town Hall to understand the detail of the mayoral chain which can be seen around his neck. He was a really interesting person to work on and completely different from the Shankly statue."

Still standing at the opposite corner of the present stadium is the house in which Houlding once lived – a red-and-cream-bricked mansion at no73 Anfield Road and otherwise known as Stanley House.

He'd progressed from working as a drayman delivering beer at Clarkson's Brewery in Soho Street, in the city's Islington district, to owning his own brewery in Everton's Tynemouth Street. 'Houlding's Sparkling Ales' were the tipple of choice in late Victorian Liverpool, and using profits from the brewery he set up home at Stanley House with his wife Jane and children Alice and William.

With a garden and steepled tower overlooking (the then six-year-old) Stanley Park, it gave him the perfect base from which to keep an eye on the city's footballing affairs.

Houlding literally kicked off the Liverpool FC adventure. The first match was against Rotherham Town on Thursday 1 September 1892 with the team wearing blue-and-white halved shirts, long blue shorts and blue socks – an almost carbon-copy of the strip worn by former Anfield tenants Everton.

The *Liverpool Mercury* reported: "Only a moderate number of spectators turned up to witness the encounter. [Andrew] Hannah won the toss and elected to kick with the wind; and amidst applause Councillor John Houlding started the ball." Liverpool won 7-1.

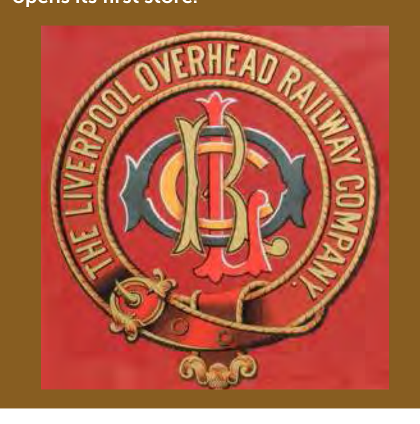
HOULDING BACK THE YEARS

1891: the top mast from the SS Great Eastern steamship is erected at the corner of the ground where Walton Breck Road meets Kemlyn Road; it's purchased by Everton FC from a Rock Ferry shipyard, floated across the Mersey and hauled up to Anfield by a team of horses.

1892: the Victoria Building is completed on the city's Brownlow Hill; designed by the renowned architect Alfred Waterhouse, it's the first purpose-built building for what will become the University of Liverpool and is thought to be the inspiration for the term 'red-brick university'.

1893: running for five miles along the city's docklands and soon to be dubbed 'the Docker's Umbrella', the Liverpool Overhead Railway opens for business – it's the world's first electric elevated railway.

1894: Liverpool and Everton contest their first league derby at Anfield, the game ending in a 2-2 draw; Marks and Spencer opens its first store.



Getting to Anfield

Public transport: the quick and convenient way to the match

Get the bus

On matchday the 917 express bus runs direct from Liverpool city centre to Anfield every 10 minutes. There is a discounted ticket price of £4, with fans receiving a discount on soft drinks at LFC kiosks within the stadium on presentation of their return-ticket.

The Soccerbus will be operating three hours prior to kick-off and up to 90 minutes after the final whistle. A new family ticket (two adults + two children) is available for £7 and a group ticket (four adults) for £10. Soccerbus tickets can now be bought at any rail station by asking for a 'plus Anfield/Goodison' ticket.

Other bus services include the 26 and 27 from LiverpoolONE station and 17 from Queen Square. The 68/168, which operates between Bootle and Aigburth, and the 14 and 19 (from Queen Square) stop a short walk from the ground.

The 501 football service operates direct to Lime Street from Walton Lane for up to two hours after the final whistle. Adult £2, children £1.

The 502 also runs two journeys from Anfield after each home game to Lime Street.



Trains and automobiles

Lime Street is two miles from Anfield and taxi fares usually cost £7-9, or buses go from nearby Queen Square. Merseyrail runs from town to Sandhills station from where matchday passengers can use the Soccerbus.

Back of the cab

Taxi pick-up points are available outside of the stadium and on major routes. Taxi One operates a taxi-bus service from St Johns Lane, Liverpool city centre, direct to Anfield. A frequent service operates from three hours prior to kick off. Taxi One return-service operates from the corner of Anfield Road/Sleepers Hill opposite the Isla Gladstone conservatory back to the city-centre.

On your bike!

The free LFC Cycle Hub will be located on Anfield Road for the 2018/19 season, allowing fans who cycle to the game to park their bikes safely and securely with an attendant.

Walk on

Walking routes are signposted from Lime Street, Sandhills and Kirkdale stations to assist fans who travel to the game using local rail services.

Get there early!

Avoid the crowds and get to Anfield early to enjoy the Fan Zones, located in Paisley Square and Anfield Road and open four hours before kick-off – ideal for meeting before the game to soak up the atmosphere.

For more advice please visit www.liverpoolfc.com/gettingtoanfield

ANFIELD MATCHDAY TRANSPORT PLAN 2018/19 SEASON







CHANGING LIVES ON LAND AND SEA

Legend Alan and co roll back the years in style while local kids make a splash at half-term



There was a friendly match with a difference at Anfield Sports & Community Centre recently when the Red Neighbours walking-football team took on their England counterparts.

LFC legend Alan Kennedy headed down to show his support, joining the national team for the game which they won 2-1. Walking-football is designed to encourage over-50s into regular physical activity in a fun, social setting.

Bill Bygroves, the LFC club chaplain and Red Neighbours team-member, called it "a great experience for our local players – giving them the chance to meet and play among the country's finest walking footballers.

"Some of our players are in their 80s and 90s, and they thoroughly enjoy coming along to the sessions each week. It's fantastic to see people from older generations getting back into football while also socialising and keeping active."

John Hayes, captain of the Red Neighbours team, added: "We've loved today, giving us a chance to pull on the red shirt and play against this great group of lads from the England team. Our boys played extremely well and they should be very proud."



Elsewhere LFC Foundation teamed up with Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service to deliver inspirational half-term workshops for 10 local youngsters from the club's Premier League Kicks programme.

On the three-day Merseyfire curriculum course the boys and girls, aged 11 to 13, learned about road-safety and arson-awareness, took part in team-building exercises and received positive-messaging from MFRS and LFC Foundation staff.

Project-lead Tony Cosgrove said: "We've been running these camps alongside MFRS for a while now and they are always a great success.

"We are able to engage with many young people through our weekly football sessions, but we also encourage the participants to attend these alternative activities and educational workshops during the holidays.

"The youngsters were selected from our Friday-evening session at Kirkby Leisure Centre. They have all shown excellent attendance and outstanding contributions and we wanted to reward their behaviour and hopefully inspire them further.

"All ten have taken away additional key life-skills and positive messages and we hope they will then go on to share these with their friends and wider community."

At Liverpool FC we are passionate about our community and our official charity LFC Foundation delivers programmes and partnerships to create life-changing opportunities for children and young people.

We also work with local residents, community groups and schools in the Anfield area, as part of our Red Neighbours programme, focusing on the key issues of food poverty and education, the elderly, getting the community physically-active and creating memorable experiences for youngsters.





WHAT'S IN





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The LFC Foundation is the official charity of Liverpool Football Club. An independent charity registered in England & Wales with The Charity Commission, Charity Number: 1096572.
Registered Office: Anfield Road, Liverpool, England L4 0TH.



WIN SIX LFC SOCCERSTARZ!

Here's a chance to own your very own miniature Mo Salah, Bobby Firmino, Sadio Mane, Jürgen Klopp, Jordan Henderson and Virgil van Dijk!

These single-figure, blister-pack collectables are official Liverpool Football Club merchandise and we've got one bundle of six to give away courtesy of our friends at SoccerStarz, the smash-hit pocket-sized football figures from Creative Toys Company.

These highly sought-after, two-inch handmade miniature Reds are fully licensed and endorsed by LFC. You can find out more at www.soccerstarz.com.

The competition is for UK residents only. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer the following question and email your entry, along with your name and address, to liverpoolfcmag@trinitymirror.com with SOCCERSTARZ COMPETITION *in the title bar. Closing date for entries: Friday 4 January 2019.*

What is Jürgen Klopp's middle name?

(a) Neville (b) Nigel (c) Norbert









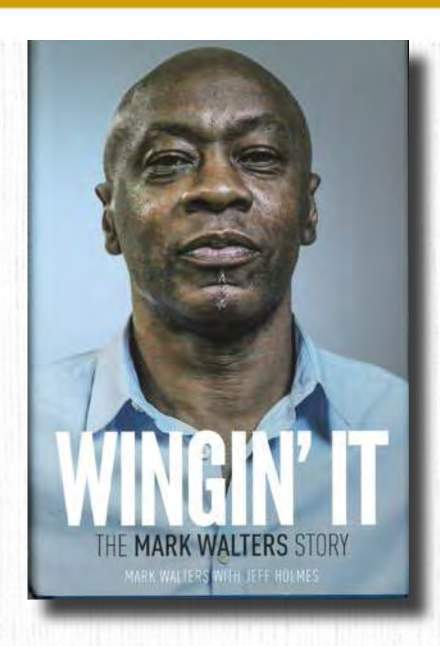






ANFIELD SHELFIES

Our verdict on the pick of the latest Liverpool FC-related books



WINGIN' IT by Mark Walters
(hardback £18.99 Pitch)

Mark Walters is the answer to several Liverpool-related quiz questions: who scored the Reds' last goal in the old First Division, their first in the Premier League and also the first hat-trick of the Premier League era?

He is also the author of a revealing autobiography in which he addresses a range of issues that confronted him during a professional career lasting over 20 years.

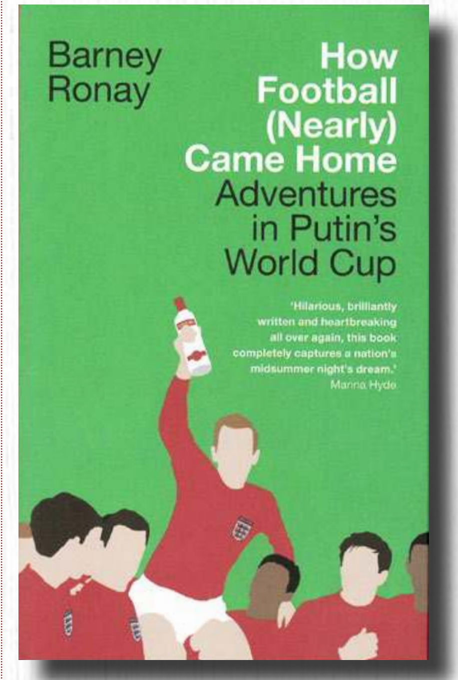
A private man who rarely promotes himself in the sporting media, he doesn't 'wing it' in this tale of a talented winger who took the top-flight by storm after breaking into Aston Villa's first-team in the early Eighties.



Liverpudlians will be particularly interested in his reflections on what, despite those milestones, ultimately proved to be a frustrating spell at Anfield.

Walters admits he was uncertain about whether to join the Reds in the first place, having become settled at Rangers despite the ferocious intensity of football in Glasgow. But he made the move and here offers his insight on an eventful four-year spell, addressing topics such as re-uniting with Graeme Souness, his disappointment at being benched for two Wembley cup finals, the training-ground dominance of some senior players, the discipline or lack of it at Melwood, and eventually being frozen out under Roy Evans.

Collaborating with author Jeff Holmes, he concludes: "I still have a lot of great memories of my time at Liverpool. While I probably should have stayed at Rangers, I don't regret joining them if that makes sense. But playing is what turns me on and if I'm not playing then I'm not happy – and life's too short to be unhappy."



HOW FOOTBALL (NEARLY) CAME HOME
(hardback £12.99 HarperCollins)

Whatever your views on the England national team, there is little doubt that this summer's exploits at the World Cup gave football lovers in this nation a timely boost.

Barney Ronay, one of the best sportswriters out there, digs deeper into this tale of the unexpected in this punchy narrative of his experience covering the tournament in Russia.



He lifts the lid on how this cast of characters, including Jordan Henderson and Trent Alexander-Arnold, came within a whisker from achieving the hitherto fantastical thought of taking the Three Lions to a World Cup final.

"The summer of 2018: England sweltered in the most sustained heatwave for 42 years, the Government tore itself apart over deals and no deals, and hundreds of miles away, in a taciturn and strange state, the national football team did the unthinkable in the World Cup: they didn't screw it up."

Ronay captures the sights and sounds as he navigated his way around Russia following the England team. "As the tournament kicked off, a stunningly stage-managed occasion by Putin and his cronies, we all took a deep inhale of breath and waited for the inevitable: technical ineptitude and poor penalties. How wrong we were."

Six months on he reminds us of how Gareth Southgate's young squad helped reignite a feel-good factor in a nation in danger of imploding in the wake of Brexit.

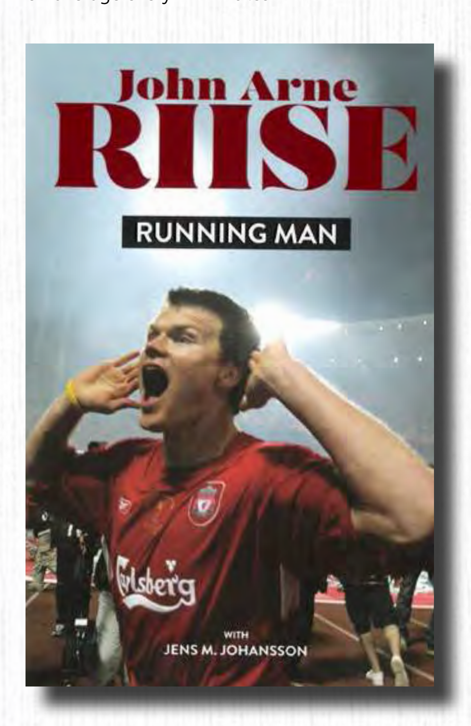
"Two days after England had beaten Sweden in the heat of Samara, as the World Cup wound down to its end-game, a press release popped up in my inbox around 11.30pm Moscow time, one that appeared every day during Russia 2018.

"This one was called *Not Just Football* and it said that a survey by something called Vanquis Bank had discovered that 86 per cent of people believed an England World Cup win could 'unite the country'. More than half felt 'generally happier' since the World Cup had started. Ninety per cent of people felt more proud to be British."





Southgate's decision-making proved inspired, even for the high street. "Online data analysts recorded that on a single day in July somebody in England tried to buy a waistcoat on average every 12 minutes."



RUNNING MAN: by John Arne Riise
(hardback £20 deCoubertin)
"I was only thirteen and I made a decision: I was going to be Norway's best football player of all time," Liverpool's former left-back reveals early on in his new release.

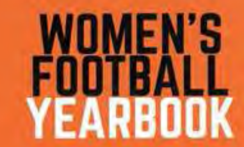
He'd go on to become his country's most-capped player of course, but it is his time with the Reds that dominates the pages of this book written with Jens Johansson.

Its 75 short, snappy chapters allow for quick reading bursts through Riise's progression through the Norwegian lower leagues – much due to the stubbornness and persistence of his mother, a former goalkeeper herself – his move to Monaco and time after LFC too.

Tales from the early days at Anfield include the nickname given to him by Jamie Redknapp for leading the way in Melwood pre-season running drills, his delight at soon scoring wondergoals against both Everton and Manchester United, and his new lease of life under then new manager Rafa Benitez. "I didn't even feel the ball," he says of his United rocket, "I struck it cleaner than I had ever done before."

There is a brutally honest account of the relief of penalty shoot-out redemption in the 2006 FA Cup final after his Istanbul miss, as well as the reasons surrounding the fizzling-out of his seven-year Liverpool career.

There's also no shying away from sharing still-raw and uncomfortable memories of a tough time at home and at school as a child and the ups and downs of his relationships and time as a pro footballer, his lifelong striving to be liked and accepted being a 'running' theme.



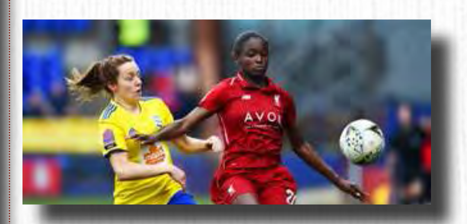


WOMEN'S FOOTBALL YEARBOOK 2018/19
(hardback £22.50 Legends)
Since the 1970s men's football has been faithfully served by the annual Rothmans and Sky Sports Football Yearbook but it was only last year that the women's game received its own version.

A labour of love for authors Chris Slegg and Tom Garry, they self-published the first edition and the sequel, taken on by Legends Publishing, has seen them pledge 50 per cent of all royalties to player-sponsorship in women's football.

Weighing in at 448 pages, this is a must for all devotees of the women's game in general and followers of Liverpool FC Women in particular. Each FA WSL club receives five pages in a section which includes a comprehensive round-up of results and goalscorers from 2017/18 as well as facts and figures relating to playing staff. There is also an overview of the season and a player feature, which in Liverpool's case focuses on defender Jasmine Matthews.

Other clubs down to tier-four of the game receive at least two pages apiece, while there is an analysis of domestic cup competitions down to county-level, plus a review of English clubs in the UEFA Women's Champions League. Seven pages are dedicated to the England national team.



Slegg, a journalist at the BBC, says: "While putting together the book I have learnt so much about life at all levels of the game. Outside of the very top clubs, women's football is held together by the extraordinary work of volunteers. Players pay to pay, coaches give up their time to coach and so many others do so much to keep their clubs going."

This yearbook will prove an invaluable reference to the thousands involved in women's football at all levels and could become as hardy an annual as the men's version in the years ahead.

→



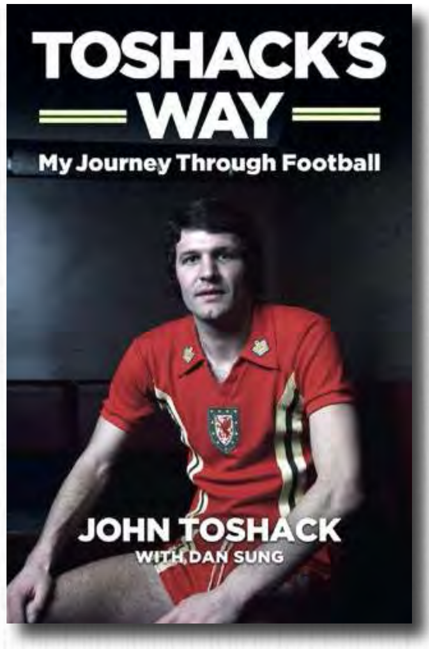
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ANFIELD SHELFIES





TOSHACK'S WAY: MY JOURNEY THROUGH FOOTBALL
(hardback £20 deCoubertin)

The greatest manager Liverpool never had? Twice John Toshack came close to managing Liverpool: in the early 1980s as a successor to Bob Paisley who was contemplating retirement but stayed on another year, and in the latter years of that same decade when the Reds were looking to appoint a joint-boss with Roy Evans.

It's one of the revelations in this absorbing autobiography by the Welshman, now 69, who has truly travelled the football globe.

Since hanging up his boots he's managed Real Madrid twice and Real Sociedad three times (he gave a debut to Xabi Alonso – who provides the book's foreword – and he lives in San Sebastian to this day) as well coaching the Welsh and Macedonian national sides and clubs in Portugal, Turkey, France, Azerbaijan, Morocco and Iran.

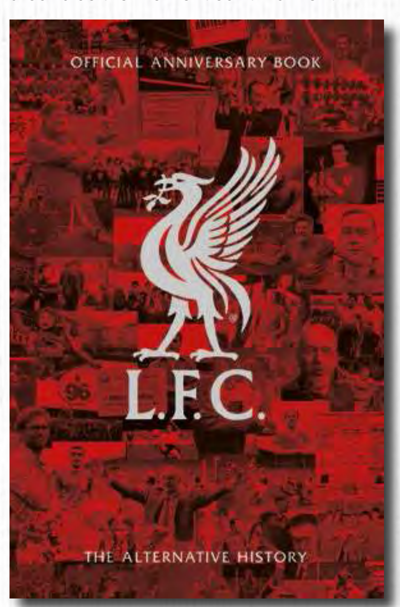
The Liverpool content is wonderfully evocative. In the here-and-now of season 2018/19 the Reds will be playing at Wolves twice in quick succession in the Premier League and FA Cup third round. Here's how Tosh recalls the legendary title-clinching clash at Molineux back in May 1976...

"There must have been ten or fifteen thousand who'd made their way down the M6 to stand in the away end. It was like the whole Kop had been transplanted and squeezed in as best they could. It had to be seen to be believed...

"We went a goal down within the first fifteen minutes , and Wolves hung on all the way to the 77th before Tommy Smith knocked one into the box for me to flick on to Kevin [Keegan]. I had my back to goal and I could see my strike-partner making the run long before the ball had reached me. We both knew where it was going and the back of the net was the answer when Kevin tucked it home from five yards at the far post. Then I got one of my own when Kennedy gave me the ball. I controlled it, turned and out it through the keeper's legs....

"Ray Kennedy finally put the game well out of reach for Wolves, turning his man and chipping one into the roof of the net from a tight angle in the last minute to properly seal the title for Liverpool. The packed terrace behind the goal didn't even wait for the whistle. They spilled out onto the pitch, swarming all around us the moment our third went in."





LFC: THE ALTERNATIVE HISTORY
(paperback £9.99 Sport Media)

If you're looking for a neutral review of *LFC: The Alternative History* than you've come to completely the wrong place, mainly because we wrote it!

Produced in 2017 by the team behind your Liverpool FC magazine to mark LFC's 125th anniversary, it sold so well in hardback that publishers Sport Media have now released a 448-page paperback version that tells the story of our football club, but not as you know it.



Split into 125 different chapters, it isn't a chronological trawl through a century-and-a-quarter of life at Anfield, nor is it a comprehensive compendium of everything that's ever happened at Liverpool FC since John Houlding formed the club in 1892. The clue is in the title.

This alternative history of LFC features a collection or moments, memories and stories told from new perspectives and different angles by mixing star names, famous matches and legendary managers with quirky occurrences, lesser-known players and humorous happenings.

From Jürgen Klopp, Bill Shankly and Kenny Dalglish to Mo Salah, Billy Liddell and Emlyn Hughes – everybody you'd expect to find in a LFC history book is featured. But the spotlight is also shone on some of the more unknown people and stories such as the scout that discovered Roger Hunt, why the Reds always flew to European games with AER Lingus, and Ken Hall – the fan who designed and made the Shankly Gates in the space of ten weeks.

"They gave us the brief and our design was one of ten which were submitted. The story goes that they were all laid out on a table in front of the selection committee which included Mrs Shankly, who chose ours. There was nothing to touch it, she said."

There's also the dentist who was a penalty-saving expert and played in goal for the Reds, how Bob Paisley's 1984 European Cup winning team got stuck in an Israeli lift while singing the theme tune from MASH, the 'Rafatollah' and how Kopites were accused of being responsible for Liverpool's exit from the FA Cup in 1964.

You won't find a better Red read this Christmas...but then we *would* say that!

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

There are some real festive treats in store for Liverpool fans as the Reds sign off for 2018 then begin 2019 with a trio of crunch Premier League fixtures.

There is an Anfield double-header to look forward to as the year ends with Rafa Benitez's Newcastle United paying a visit on Boxing Day, Wednesday 26 December (kick-off 3pm) before the Reds receive Unai Emery's Arsenal the following Saturday 29th (KO 5.30pm) looking to improve upon the entertaining 1-1 draw at the Emirates back in November.

The opening game of the new year will see the Reds fulfilling a rare Thursday-night league engagement as they make the short trip to Manchester to take on Pep Guardiola's champions on 3 January (KO 8pm). Nothing could separate the sides when they played out a goalless draw at Anfield in October.

Prior to all that, Jürgen Klopp's men will take on Nuno Espirito Santo's impressive Wolves on Friday 21 December (KO 8pm) as they visit Molineux for the first time since January 2012.




Gomez
GOMEZ
12
M. Salah
M.SALAH
11

DEC/JAN

What's On

STAYING IN EUROPE

There's a huge Champions League night at Anfield on Tuesday 11 December when Napoli are the visitors on matchday six. If all goes to plan, the Reds will be involved in the draw for the round of 16 at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland on Monday 17 December, with those knockout games beginning in mid-February. Should the Reds finish third in their group they will be entered into the draw for the Europa League's round of 32 with those matches to be played on 14 and 21 February 2019.



ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...

18 years since Igor Biscan made his debut in a 1-0 win at Ipswich Town on 10 December 2000.
38 years since Ian Rush made his debut in a 1-1 draw at Portman Road on 13 December 1980.
64 years since LFC's record league defeat, 1-9 at Birmingham City, on 11 December 1954.
63 years since Jimmy Melia made a scoring LFC debut v Nottingham Forest on 17 December 1955.
52 years since Johan Cruyff scored twice at Anfield for Ajax in the second leg of a European Cup second-round tie on 14 December 1966.
59 years since Liverpool's first game under Bill Shankly on 19 December 1959.

And it's 93 years since striker Gordon Hodgson signed for Liverpool on 14 December 1925.

It is fair to say that while Liverpool's move for Gordon largely went under the radar, it remains one of the best pieces of business the club has ever conducted.

The striker had impressed Anfield chiefs while playing in an exhibition match for a touring South African team the previous year. Indeed his displays had also alerted Everton, but it was the Reds who secured his signature. He scored his first goals for Liverpool in a 3-3 draw against Manchester United in March 1926 and never looked back.

A stunning total of 241 goals in 377 appearances over a decade at the club included 17 hat-tricks – a figure still unequalled. Thirty-six league goals during the 1930/31 season wouldn't be surpassed until Roger Hunt came along three decades later.

So impressive was Hodgson's form that he was picked to represent England, the birthplace of his parents, despite having already played for his native country. And his popularity on the Anfield terraces was emphasised by the fact that a local biscuit-seller named his homemade ginger nuts 'Hodgson's Choice'.

He still stands as one of the greatest goalscorers to wear the red shirt. His collection of 233 league goals is only bettered by Hunt's 245, with all of Gordon's coming in the top-flight. That overall tally of 241 is bettered only by Hunt again (286) and Ian Rush (346).



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Terry McDermott 67 on 8 December
Steve Nicol 57 on 11 December
Stig Inge Bjornebye 49 on 11 December
Stephen Warnock 37 on 12 December
Daniel Agger 34 on 12 December
Michael Owen 39 on 14 December
Martin Skrtel 34 on 15 December
Ryan Babel 32 on 19 December
Gary McAllister 54 on Christmas Day



Leighanne Robe 25 on Boxing Day
Doug Livermore 71 on 27 December
Peter Krawietz 47 on 31 December

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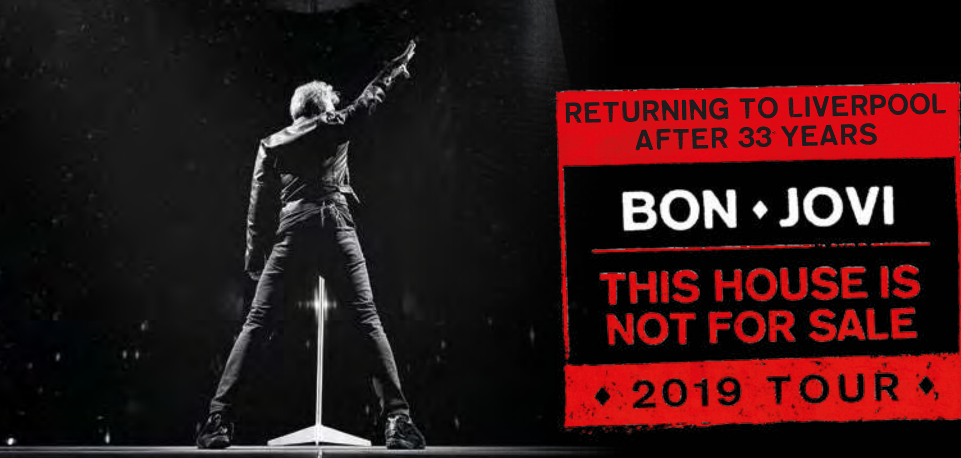




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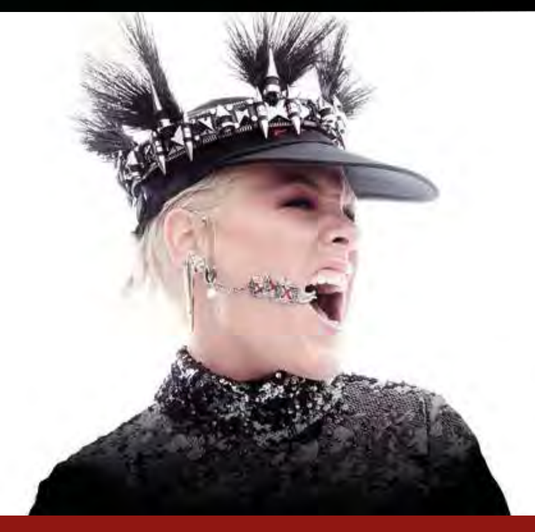
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Fixtures & Results

L.F.C.

AUGUST

Date	Fixture	Score/KO	TV	Scorers
12	**West Ham United (H)**	**4-0**	**sky**	**Mane 2, Salah, Sturridge**
20	Crystal Palace (A)	2-0	sky	Milner (pen), Mane
25	**Brighton and Hove Albion (H)**	**1-0**	**BT**	**Salah**

SEPTEMBER

Date	Fixture	Score/KO	TV	Scorers
1	Leicester City (A)	2-1	sky	Mane, Firmino
15	Tottenham Hotspur (A)	2-1	sky	Wijnaldum, Firmino
18	**Paris St-Germain (UCL, H)**	**3-2**	**BT**	**Sturridge, Milner (pen), Firmino**
22	**Southampton (H)**	**3-0**		**Hoedt (og), Matip, Salah**
26	**Chelsea (CC3, H)**	**1-2**	**sky**	**Sturridge**
29	Chelsea (A)	1-1	BT	Sturridge

OCTOBER

Date	Fixture	Score/KO	TV	Scorers
3	Napoli (UCL, A)	0-1	BT	
7	**Manchester City (H)**	**0-0**	**sky**	
20	Huddersfield Town (A)	1-0	BT	Salah
24	**Red Star Belgrade (UCL, H)**	**4-0**	**BT**	**Firmino, Salah 2 (1 pen), Mane**
27	**Cardiff City (H)**	**4-1**		**Salah, Mane 2, Shaqiri**

NOVEMBER

Date	Fixture	Score/KO	TV	Scorers
3	Arsenal (A)	1-1	BT	Milner
6	Red Star Belgrade (UCL, A)	0-2	BT	
11	**Fulham (H)**	**2-0**	**BT**	**Salah, Shaqiri**
24	Watford (A)	3-0		Salah, Alexander-Arnold, Firmino
28	Paris St-Germain (UCL, A)	1-2	BT	Milner (pen)

DECEMBER

Date	Fixture	Score/KO	TV	Scorers
2	**Everton (H)**	**1-0**	**sky**	**Origi**
5	Burnley (A)	7.45pm		
8	Bournemouth (A)	12.30pm	sky	
11	**Napoli (UCL, H)**	**8pm**	**BT**	
16	**Manchester United (H)**	**4pm**	**sky**	
21	Wolverhampton Wanderers (A)	8pm	sky	
26	**Newcastle United (H)**	**3pm**		
29	**Arsenal (H)**	**5.30pm**	**BT**	

JANUARY

Date	Fixture	Score/KO	TV	Scorers
3	Manchester City (A)	8pm	sky	
6/7	Wolverhampton W (FA Cup 3, A)	TBC		
12	Brighton and Hove Albion (A)	3pm		
19	**Crystal Palace (H)**	**3pm**		
26	FA Cup 4			
30	**Leicester City (H)**	**8pm**	**BT**	

FEBRUARY

Date	Fixture	Score/KO	TV	Scorers
2	West Ham United (A)	3pm		
9	**Bournemouth (H)**	**3pm**		
12/13	UCL Round of 16 1			
16	FA Cup 5			
19/20	UCL Round of 16 1			
23	Manchester United (A)	3pm		
27	**Watford (H)**	**8pm**		

MARCH

Date	Fixture	Score/KO	TV	Scorers
2	Everton (A)	3pm		
5/6	UCL Round of 16 2			
9	**Burnley (H)**	**3pm**		
12/13	UCL Round of 16 2			
16	Fulham (A)/FA Cup 6			
30	**Tottenham Hotspur (H)**	**3pm**		

APRIL

Date	Fixture	Score/KO	TV	Scorers
6	Southampton (A)/FA Cup s-f	3pm		
9/10	UCL q-f 1			
13	**Chelsea (H)**	**3pm**		
16/17	UCL q-f 2			
20	Cardiff City (A)	3pm		
27	**Huddersfield Town (H)**	**3pm**		
30/1	UCL s-f 1			

MAY

Date	Fixture	Score/KO	TV	Scorers
4	Newcastle United (A)	3pm		
7/8	UCL s-f 2			
12	**Wolverhampton Wanderers (H)**	**3pm**		
18	FA Cup final			

JUNE

Date	Fixture	Score/KO	TV	Scorers
1	UCL final			








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NEIL MELLOR

When you play for Liverpool, especially attacking the Kop, you always believe you'll get a chance to be the match-winner



Divock Origi deserves the utmost credit for his winning goal in the Merseyside derby – not just for being in the right place at the right time to capitalise on the opportunity, but for working hard and showing the right attitude on the training ground to be involved in the first place.

He could have been sulking, wondering when he'll get a chance, but Origi must have remained focused and impressed Jürgen Klopp and his staff to the point where the manager has not only thought he had to put him on the bench but bring him on in a big game against Everton when Liverpool needed something different to get a goal.

Origi's winner will never be forgotten by the supporters of Liverpool Football Club. It will be remembered alongside the other last-minute winning goals against Everton by Ronny Rosenthal, Gary McAllister and Sadio Mane. Moments like that are never forgotten and the biggest thing for Origi is that it is a reminder to everyone that he's only 23 and still has a part to play for Liverpool.

It was one of the maddest goals I've ever seen. When Virgil van Dijk miscued his volley I'm sure I wasn't the only one thinking: argh, what's he done there? But bizarrely it landed in an area that created uncertainty in Jordan Pickford's mind and the Everton goalkeeper got it wrong.

Origi, like a good centre-forward, anticipated that he could get the ball and when he headed it home it was greeted with euphoria around Anfield because it wasn't just a derby win but an important three points.

That goal was the fifth scored by a Liverpool substitute this season, equalling the tally from the whole of last season, but the difference this year is that three of those goals have earned Liverpool points. If Roberto Firmino hadn't got the winner against PSG in the Champions League at Anfield there would have been nothing to play for against Napoli on matchday six, while who knows how valuable Daniel Sturridge's equaliser against Chelsea – which earned a point and took two off a rival – and Origi's winner against Everton will prove to be in the grand scheme of things?

Those contributions also remind the substitutes, who will be disappointed not to be playing, that they can make an impact.

Coming off the bench as a forward when your team needs a goal can be difficult, but when you play for Liverpool – especially at Anfield when attacking the Kop end – you always believe you'll get a chance to be the match-winner.

If you were being selfish as a striker you might be sat there thinking you hope the team does need a late goal because it improves your chances of getting on! Ultimately you want to be involved in a winning team and starting games, but you have to be ready when on the bench and have the right mindset.

I was a sub for the Olympiacos game in 2004 when we had to win by two clear goals to qualify. We were 1-0 down by the interval and I was angry that the manager hadn't brought me on at half-time. It proved to be the right decision – I came on in the 78th minute at 1-1 and scored two minutes later before playing a part in Steven Gerrard's famous winner – and it showed you have to be sat there thinking: I could be the one that changes the outcome of this game.

Some of the players who aren't regular starters will also be looking at the FA Cup third-round draw away to Wolves and wondering if they'll be given an opportunity. There may be more emphasis on the FA Cup this season because Liverpool haven't won a trophy since 2012, but I also think the squad is strong enough for the manager to rotate and perhaps give a young player or two an opportunity. The likes of Curtis Jones and Adam Lewis have stood out for Academy teams this season so maybe they'll be involved at Molineux.

I also believe the squad is strong enough for Klopp not to have to sign anyone during the January transfer-window, unless injuries have an impact. Of course if a player becomes available that Jürgen wants – and the Nabil Fekir speculation has never gone away – then you never know, but at the moment the squad is looking really strong compared to in previous Januarys.

Finally, I hope you have a Merry Christmas and best wishes to you all for 2019.

• Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33







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